

**Administrative Procedures for Policy #1025.1 (Administration)  
Regarding Freedom of Expression in Student Journalism**

I. Definitions

- A. School-sponsored Media – Any material, except for that which is intended for distribution or transmission solely in the classroom in which the material is produced, that is:
  - 1. Prepared, written, published, or broadcast by a student journalist;
  - 2. Distributed or generally made available to the student body; and
  - 3. Prepared under the direction of a student media advisor.
- B. Student Journalist – A Calvert County Public Schools (CCPS) student who gathers, compiles, writes, edits, photographs, records, or prepares information for dissemination in school-sponsored media.
- C. Student Media Advisor – An individual employed, appointed, or designated by CCPS to supervise or provide instruction relating to school-sponsored media.

II. Guidelines for Freedom of Expression in Student Journalism

- A. A student journalist may exercise freedom of speech and freedom of the press in school-sponsored media, which may not be limited by the fact that the school-sponsored media is:
  - 1. Supported financially by CCPS; or
  - 2. Produced in conjunction with a class in which the student journalist is enrolled.
- B. Under the supervision of a student media advisor, a student journalist is responsible for determining the news, opinion, feature, and advertising content of school-sponsored media, which may not be construed to:
  - 1. Prevent the student media advisor from teaching professional standards of English and journalism to student journalists;
  - 2. Authorize or protect content of school-sponsored media by a student journalist that:
    - a. Is libelous or slanderous;
    - b. Constitutes an unwarranted invasion of privacy;
    - c. Violates federal or state law; or

- d. Incites students to create a clear and present danger of the commission of an unlawful act, the violation of Board of Education policies, or the material and substantial disruption of orderly operation of the school.
- C. A student media advisor may not influence a student journalist to promote an official position of the Board of Education (the Board) or an individual school.

### III. Role of the Board of Education

- A. The Board may not exercise prior restraint except:
  - 1. As provided in III, D, 2 of these regulations; or
  - 2. To limit language in school-sponsored media that is profane, vulgar, lewd, obscene, or has the intent to harass, threaten, or intimidate.
- B. The Board shall have the burden of proving justification without delay before taking action to exercise restraint on freedom of expression in student journalism.
- C. The Board may not discipline a student journalist for exercising freedom of expression in accordance with Board Policy #1025 and these procedures.
- D. The Board may not dismiss, suspend, discipline, reassign, transfer, or otherwise retaliate against a student media advisor for:
  - 1. Acting to protect a student journalist for exercising freedom of expression in accordance with Board Policy #1025 and these procedures; or
  - 2. Refusing to infringe on conduct that is protected within Board Policy #1025 and these procedures, the First Amendment to the United States Constitution, or Article 40 of the Maryland Declaration of Rights.