

**Policy Statement #1025 (Administration) of the Board of Education  
Regarding Freedom of Expression in Student Journalism**

- I. Purpose
  - A. To establish parameters for freedom of expression in student journalism in accordance with Maryland law.
- II. 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.
- III. Policy Statement
  - A. Effective October 1, 2016, Maryland education law authorizes freedom of expression in student journalism with limited exceptions. The law requires that local boards of education develop a corresponding policy. These regulations provide guidelines for the implementation of the exercise of freedom of expression in student journalism, the role of the student journalist and student media advisor, and any legally supported limitations on freedom of expression.
- IV. Delegation of Authority
  - A. The Superintendent is directed to develop administrative procedures to implement this policy in accordance with all local policies and local, state and federal laws and regulations and to communicate this policy and accompanying procedures to all relevant parties.
- V. Exceptions
  - A. There are no exceptions to this policy. However, the Board, by majority vote, may temporarily suspend all or part of this policy. Suspension of all or part of this policy, however, in no way relieves the Board of its obligation to comply with the pertinent local, state and federal laws and regulations or the rules and regulations of the Maryland State Board of Education and the Maryland State Department of Education.

VI. Review

- A. This policy will be reviewed at the end of four years, or sooner, if approved by majority vote of the Board of Education in public session.

VII. Effective Date

- A. This policy is effective November 14, 2024.

Citations

State Law: Section 7-121, Education Law Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland

State Reg.:

Federal Law:

Adm. Reg.:

Neg. Agr.:

Other Citation: