

**STUDENT RIGHTS - EXPRESSION AND COMMUNICATION**

1. Students shall be free to express views and opinions provided they do not seek to coerce others to follow their mode of expression or interfere with the free expression rights of others.
2. Students shall be permitted to discuss and express all views relevant to the subject matter in the classroom limited only to the responsibility of the teacher to maintain order, to assure meaningful participation and to respect the contributions of all students.
  - a. Students are, however, responsible for learning the content of the subjects for which they have been scheduled or have themselves elected.
  - b. They are further responsible for meeting the performance standards of the subjects as established by the teachers and school officials. Requirements of class attendance, participation, and the submission of written assignments are important aspects of student responsibilities.
  - c. Students shall also be provided the opportunity to participate in discussions and develop recommendations to improve the curriculum through duly elected or appointed representatives.
  - d. Evaluation of student performance shall only be related to the achievement of the subject matter content, the participation in the learning activities, and the development and application of learning skills; penalties involving student achievement may not be imposed as a result of student actions outside of the subject matter study.
3. Students shall have the right to express themselves through direct and symbolic means as long as such expression
  - a. does not mock, demean, or ridicule other persons or groups;
  - b. does not interfere with the scheduled activities or disrupt the educational process within the school;
  - c. does not reflect obscenity, vulgarity and inflammatory statements.
4. Students shall have the right to publish and distribute materials as long as such action or material
  - a. does not endanger the health or safety of students;

- b. does not threaten to disrupt the educational process;
- c. does not reflect a libelous nature;
- d. does not indicate a non-school commercial purpose;
- e. does not contain obscene and inflammatory statements.

The right to publish and distribute materials shall require:

- a. designation of the person or persons who wrote and published the materials;
  - b. adherence to acceptable standards of journalism which emphasize literary value, newsworthiness and propriety;
  - c. the scheduling of the distribution of materials by the school administration;
  - d. acceptance of the legal consequences for student expressions and publications;
  - e. faculty advisors, preferably selected by students, may counsel students as to literary style, format, and suitability of materials.
5. Students shall have the right to hold peaceful assembly involving free discussion, passing of resolutions, and exercising lawful action pertaining to matters which directly concern their educational progress.

The school administration may require that meetings or assemblages be held at times which will not disrupt classes or other scheduled school activities; will not present hazards to persons or property; and will avoid conflicts through advance notice of intent to hold meetings.

6. Students shall have the right to petition school officials regarding activities directly related to the conduct and improvement of the educational process and services. Such proposals should contain recommendations for constructive and responsible improvement and action, and should be given full consideration by school officials.

The school administration should require that signatures on petitions be so collected as not to create a distraction or to foster a disruptive influence.

ADOPTED: March 20, 1972

AMENDED: March 21, 1977