

POST FALLS SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 273

Procedure Title: Activities

Section Title: School Sponsored Publications

Sub-Section No. 507.5a

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The following guidelines apply to all school sponsored student publications.

1. School sponsored publications are those publications, including but not limited to, school newspapers, yearbooks and athletic programs which may fairly be characterized as part of the school district's curriculum, whether or not they occur in a traditional classroom setting. Generally they include student publications which are supervised by a faculty member and are designed to impart particular knowledge or skills to student participants and audiences. However, they also may include publications which students, parents and members of the public reasonably perceive to be sponsored or approved by the school district.
2. Post Falls School District will not restrict student freedom of expression when such expression is within the rules of responsible journalism and is consistent with the four factors outlined below. The principal of each school shall meet with the student publication advisor, student editors and student writers to establish guidelines for achieving a maximum of student freedom of expression subject to the limitations set forth in this policy.
 - A. All publications must be reviewed and approved by the building principal prior to distribution. The building principal shall have the authority to determine the appropriateness of any particular item for publication. In exercising such authority, material will not be considered suitable for publication that is ungrammatical, inadequately researched, obscene, defamatory, advocates racial or religious prejudice, invades the privacy rights of others, is unsuitable for the audiences for which the publication is intended, contributes to the disruption or interruption of the educational process or the operation of the school or otherwise is contrary to school district policy or applicable federal or state law. The school principal may also exclude material which may serve to associate the school or school district with any position other than neutrality on matters of political controversy.
 - B. The principal of each secondary school shall have the authority to determine whether advertising will be accepted for inclusion in school-sponsored student publications. The school district has an important interest in avoiding the impression that it has endorsed a viewpoint at variance with its educational mission. Consequently, if advertising is accepted, each school principal shall have authority to exclude certain categories of advertising. For example, drug, drug paraphernalia, or alcoholic beverage advertisements or any other advertisements which may be viewed as encouraging action which might endanger the health and welfare of students will be excluded. Similarly, advertisements which are factually inaccurate, defamatory, obscene, advocate racial, ethnic, sexual, handicap, age or religious prejudice, contain either explicit or implicit sexual content or overtones, or are of poor production quality will be excluded. The school principal may also exclude advertising which may serve to associate the school or the school district with any position other than neutrality on matters of political controversy.

- C. In the event that the building principal determines that material is not suitable for publication, students may appeal such a decision to the district superintendent or his/her designee. The decision of the superintendent or his/her designee will be final.
- D. Copies of each issue of the student publication shall be sent to the district superintendent.

Adopted: 11/13/95

Reviewed: 2017

POST FALLS SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 273

Procedure Title: Activities

Section Title: Non-School Sponsored Publications

Sub-Section No. 507.5b

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Post Falls School District recognizes that students generally are entitled to express their opinions and may do so in the form of written publications. Students who participate in non-school sponsored student publications are subject to the following guidelines:

1. Any such publication should not be designated or written so as to give the impression that the publication is school sponsored or reflects the views of the school or the school administration. Students are advised to consult Policy 507.5 for a definition of school sponsored publications.
2. The distribution of non-school sponsored student publications may not interfere with or disrupt the educational process of the school, its operation or school discipline. In order to ensure that such a disruption does not occur, school principals may adopt reasonable guidelines regarding the time, place and manner of distribution of such publications on school premises.
3. Students who edit, publish or distribute handwritten, printed or duplicated publications to or among their fellow students on school premises or at any school activity, function or event are responsible for the content of such publications. Material which is obscene, defamatory, advocates racial, ethnic, sexual, handicap, age or religious prejudice, invades the privacy rights of others, contributes to the disruption or interruption of the educational process, the operation of the school, or school discipline, or violates school board policy is prohibited. Students responsible for the publication or distribution of material of this nature may be subject to disciplinary action pursuant to school district policies and procedures.
4. Students who violate any of these guidelines may be subject to disciplinary action pursuant to Post Falls School District policies and procedures.

Adopted: 11/13/95

Reviewed: 2017