Code: **IB**
Adopted: June 24, 2006

Freedom of Expression

Students have a general right to freedom of expression within the school system. The district requires, however, that students exercise their rights fairly, responsibly and in a manner not disruptive to other individuals or to the educational process.

Freedom of Student Inquiry and Expression

- Generally, students and student organizations are free to examine and discuss questions of interest to them and to express opinions publicly and privately within the school system, provided such examination and expression is fair and responsible and is not disruptive to other individuals or to the educational process. Students may support or oppose causes by orderly means which do not disrupt other individuals or the operation of the school.
- In the classroom, students are free to examine views offered in any course of study, provided such examination is expressed in a responsible manner.

Freedom of Association

Students are free to organize associations to promote their common interests. Student organizations should be open to all students. Membership criteria may not exclude students on the basis of age, race, religion, color, national origin, disability, marital status or sex. Each student organization must have a staff advisor to counsel and, when necessary, supervise students in the organization. All student organizations must submit to the school a statement of purpose, criteria for membership, Regulations and procedures and a current list of officers. School administrators may establish reasonable Regulations and regulations governing the activity of student organizations.

Publications, Displays and Productions

On occasion, materials such as leaflets, newsletters, cartoons and other items including displays and productions are prepared, produced and/or distributed by students as part of the educational process and free expression in an academic community. Materials may be subject to administrative review, restricted or prohibited, however, pursuant to legitimate educational concerns. Such concerns include:

1. The material is or may be defamatory;
2. The material is inappropriate based on the age, grade level and/or maturity of the audience;
3. The material is poorly written, inadequately researched, biased or prejudiced;
4. Whether there is an opportunity for a named individual or named individuals to make a response;
5. Whether specific individuals may be identified even though the material does not use or give names;
6. The material is or may be otherwise generally disruptive to the school environment. Such disruption may occur, for example, if the material uses, advocates or condones the use of profane language or advocates or condones the commission of unlawful acts;
7. Students, parents and members of the public might reasonably perceive the materials to bear the sanction or approval of the district.

END OF POLICY

Legal Reference(s):

Equal Access Act, 20 U.S.C. Sections 4071-4074.
Westside Community Board of Education v. Mergens, 496 U.S. 226 (1990).
Hazelwood School District v. Kuhlmeier, 484 U.S. 260 (1988).
United States Constitution, Article I and XIV.
Nevada State Constitution, Article I, Section 8.