

SUBJECT: STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

Students shall enjoy the constitutional right of freedom of expression. They shall have the right to express their views in speech, in writing, or through any other medium or form, limited solely by those restrictions imposed on all citizens generally and those specifically applicable to children and youth in a school setting.

The Board of Education encourages student publications not only because they offer an educational activity through which students gain experience in reporting, writing, editing, and understanding responsible journalism, but also because they provide an opportunity for students to express their views and a means of communicating both within and beyond the school community.

All student publications will comply with the rules for responsible journalism. Libelous statements, unfounded charges and accusations, obscenity, false statements, materials advocating racial or religious prejudice, hatred, violence, the breaking of laws and school regulations, or materials designed to disrupt the educational process will not be permitted. Expressions of personal opinion must be clearly identified as such, and bear the name of the author. Opportunity for the expression of opinions differing from those of the student publishers must be provided.

In addition, student newspapers and/or publications which are paid for by the School District and/or produced under the direction of a teacher as part of the school curriculum are not considered a public forum. In such cases, the Board reserves the right to edit or delete such student speech which it feels is inconsistent with the District's basic educational mission.

Distribution of Literature

Students have a right to distribute literature on school grounds and in school buildings provided such distribution does not interfere with or disrupt the educational process. No literature may be distributed unless a copy is submitted in advance to the Superintendent of Schools or designee.

Guidelines have been established that are in keeping with the above and shall provide for the review of the content of all student publications prior to their distribution.

School Newspapers

The Churchville-Chili School District encourages student participation and involvement in the school newspaper, recognizing the importance of the newspaper as a public forum for student expression. Members of the student body should be encouraged to submit articles to the newspaper staff for publication. Student staff members responsible for editorials and editing of articles must recognize their responsibility to observe the rules for responsible journalism and to refrain from libel and obscenity.

(Continued)

POLICY

Churchville-Chili Central School District

2023

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Students

SUBJECT: STUDENT PUBLICATIONS (CONT'D.)

School Newspapers (Cont'd.)

The school principal shall prohibit distribution of any school publication when the content of the publications would materially and substantially interrupt the education process or intrude upon the rights of others.

School newspaper staff members may be held responsible for harm caused by materials which are libelous or obscene.

Official school publications guidelines developed under the supervision of the school publication's faculty advisor(s) shall provide direction.

Adopted: 7/10/2001
Revised: 8/27/2019
Reviewed: 7/24/2023