

Students

Freedom of Speech/Expression

Responsible criticism and reasonable dissent are basic to the free expression of ideas. No idea will be suppressed simply because it is not shared by the majority. However, expressions which involve false statements, disruptive or potentially dangerous content, the use of obscenities, and advocacy of violation of law or official school regulations are unacceptable.

Bulletin Boards

School officials may restrict the use of certain bulletin boards to school announcements. Ample bulletin board space shall be provided for the use of students and student organizations including a reasonable area for notices relating to out-of-school activities or matters of general interest to students. The following general limitations on posting apply:

1. Material which is obscene, libelous, likely to inflame or incite so as to disrupt order or advocate violation of the law or school regulations is prohibited.
2. Identification shall be required on any posted notice of the student or student group issuing same.
3. The school shall require that notices or other communications be officially dated before posting and that such material be removed after a prescribed reasonable time to assure full access to the bulletin board.

Petitions, Leaflets, Posters, Etc.

The following limitations apply to distributing handbills, leaflets, petitions or other printed materials in the schools:

1. The time of such distribution shall be limited to periods before school begins and after dismissal.
2. The place of distribution shall be reasonably restricted to permit the normal flow of traffic within the school and at exterior doors.
3. The manner of distribution shall be restricted to prevent undue levels of noise, or to prevent the use of coercion in obtaining signatures on petitions and to prevent disruption to the educational process.
4. Identification shall be required on all printed matter and petitions distributed or circulated on school property.

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Petitions, Leaflets, Posters, Etc. (continued)

5. Materials which are obscene, libelous, likely to inflame or incite so as to disrupt order or advocate violation of the law or school regulations are prohibited.

Buttons, Badges, Printed Shirts, Etc.

The school shall prohibit the wearing of buttons, badges, printed shirts, etc. if the message thereon is obscene, libelous, likely to inflame or incite so as to disrupt order or advocate violation of the law or school regulations.

(cf. 6145.3 - Publications)

Legal Reference: *Tinker vs. Des Moines Independent Community School District*, 393 U.S., 503 (1969)

Grayned vs. City of Rockford, 408 U.S. 104 (1972)

Amendment to U.S. Constitution - Article 1

Connecticut Constitution, ARTICLE FIRST, Declaration of Rights, Sections 4, 5

Academic Freedom Policy (adopted by Connecticut State Board of Education, 9/09/81)

Policy adopted: December 8, 2005

NEW LONDON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
New London, Connecticut