

**Administrative Procedures for Policy #1025.1 (Administration)
Regarding Freedom of Expression in Student Journalism**

I. Definitions

A. School-Sponsored Media – Any material which is:

1. Prepared, written, published, or broadcast by a student journalist;
2. Distributed or generally made available to the student body; and
3. Prepared under the direction of a student media advisor.

Material which is intended solely for distribution or transmission in the classroom is exempted from this definition

B. Student Journalist – A Calvert County Public Schools (CCPS) student who gathers, compiles, writes, edits, photographs, records, or prepares information for dissemination in school-sponsored media.

C. Student Media Advisor – An individual employed, appointed, or designated by CCPS to supervise or provide instruction relating to school-sponsored media.

II. Guidelines for Freedom of Expression in Student Journalism

A. A student journalist may exercise freedom of speech and freedom of the press in school-sponsored media. These freedoms may not be limited by the fact that the school-sponsored media is:

1. Supported financially by CCPS; or
2. Produced in conjunction with a class in which the student journalist is enrolled.

B. Under the supervision of a student media advisor, a student journalist is responsible for determining the news, opinion, feature, and advertising content of school-sponsored media, which may not be construed to:

1. Prevent the student media advisor from teaching professional standards of English and journalism to student journalists;
2. Authorize or condone school-sponsored media by a student journalist that:
 - a. Is libelous or slanderous;
 - b. Constitutes an unwarranted invasion of staff or student privacy;
 - c. Violates federal or state law; or
 - d. Incites students to commit unlawful acts, violate Board of Education policies, or materially and substantially disrupt the orderly operation of the school.

- C. A student media advisor may not influence a student journalist to promote an official position of the Board of Education (the Board) or an individual school.

III. Role of the Board of Education

- A. The Board may not exercise prior restraint except:
 - 1. As provided in III, D, 2 of these regulations; or
 - 2. To limit language in school-sponsored media that is profane, vulgar, lewd, obscene, or has the intent to harass, threaten, or intimidate.
- B. The Board shall have the burden of proving justification without delay before taking action to exercise restraint on freedom of expression in student journalism.
- C. The Board may not discipline a student journalist for exercising freedom of expression in accordance with Board Policy #1025 and these procedures.
- D. The Board may not dismiss, suspend, discipline, reassign, transfer, or otherwise retaliate against a student media advisor for:
 - 1. Acting to protect a student journalist for exercising freedom of expression in accordance with Board Policy #1025 and these procedures; or
 - 2. Refusing to infringe on conduct that is protected within Board Policy #1025 and these procedures, the First Amendment to the United States Constitution, or Article 40 of the Maryland Declaration of Rights.