

Students

Freedom of Speech/Expression

The school district shall recognize and protect the rights of student expression. It will balance these rights with the interests of an orderly and efficient educational process and of a school environment suitable for healthy growth and development of all students.

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.

Printed Materials

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 school district assumes no responsibility for the contents of any written material produced, posted, circulated or otherwise distributed, or of student conduct in accordance with this policy. Through this policy, the district shall make every attempt to balance the rights to free expression with the interests of ensuring an orderly and efficient educational process and proper school environment.

Printed material produced or distributed within the confines of school district property shall not:

1. contain libelous or obscene language;
2. advocate illegal actions;
3. contain false statements or innuendoes that would subject any person to hatred, ridicule, contempt, or injury to reputation;
4. threaten imminent disruption of the school's educational process;
5. advocate actions which would endanger student health or safety;
6. invade the lawful rights of others;

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.

Students

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

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

Amendment to U.S. Constitution – Article I

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

Academic Freedom Policy (adopted by Connecticut State Board of Education,

Civil Rights Act of 1964, Title VII, 42 U.S.C.2000-e2(a).

Equal Employment Opportunity Commission Policy Guidance (N-915.035) on Current Issues of Sexual Harassment, effective 10/15/88.

Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, 34 CFR Section 106.

Meritor Savings Bank. FSB v. Vinson, 477 U.S. 57 (1986)

Faragher v. City of Boca Raton, No. 97-282 (U.S. Supreme Court, June 26, 1998)

Burlington Industries, Inc. v. Ellerth, No. 97-569, (U.S. Supreme Court, June 26, 1998)

Gebbs v. Lago Vista Indiana School District, No. 99-1866, (U.S. Supreme Court, June 26, 1998)

Connecticut General Statutes

[46a](#)-60 Discriminatory employment practices prohibited.

Constitution of the State of Connecticut, Article I, Section 20.

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NEW LONDON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
New London, Connecticut