

RANCHO SANTA FE SCHOOL DISTRICT

Board Policy No. 5017: FREEDOM OF SPEECH/EXPRESSION/ASSEMBLY

- A. The Board prohibits any expressions or materials which are obscene, libelous or slanderous according to current legal definitions.
- B. The Board prohibits expressions or materials which demonstrably incite pupils to commit unlawful acts on school premises, violate school rules, or substantially disrupt the school's orderly operation.
- C. Printed materials or petitions shall be distributed only at reasonable times and places and in reasonable ways:
 - 1. Before school begins, during lunch time, and after dismissal.
 - 2. In locations that do not obstruct the normal flow of traffic within school or at entrances.
 - 3. Without undue noise, and without any use of coercion.
 - 4. No pupil shall use coercion to induce pupils or any other persons to accept printed matter or to sign petitions. No funds or donations shall be collected for any material distributed.
 - 5. All printed matter and petitions distributed or circulated on school property shall bear the name and the address or contact location of the sponsoring organization or individual.
- D. Appeals

The pupil and the faculty member shall attempt to resolve the problem before consulting the Principal. If the issue cannot be resolved between the faculty member and the pupil, the pupil may appeal the decision to the Principal, and then to the Superintendent. As a final step, the pupil may request a hearing to determine whether a deprivation of freedom of expression was justified under this Board Policy. The hearing shall be held before the Board or an impartial person appointed by the Board as soon as possible after the hearing is requested. Both sides shall be given the opportunity to demonstrate that the Board Policy was properly applied.

Legal Reference:

Education Code sections 48907, 51520

Date Policy Adopted By The Board: September 6, 1990

Dates Policy Revised By The Board: January 13, 2005; June 5, 2008