



Book	Policy Manual
Section	5000 Students
Title	SCHOOL-SPONSORED PUBLICATIONS AND PRODUCTIONS
Code	po5722
Status	Active
Adopted	November 17, 1997
Last Revised	March 10, 2022

5722 - **SCHOOL-SPONSORED PUBLICATIONS AND PRODUCTIONS**

The Board of Education sponsors student publications and productions as means by which students learn, under adult direction/supervision, the rights and responsibilities inherent when engaging in the public expression of ideas and information in our democratic society.

For purposes of this policy, school-sponsored student media shall include both student publications and productions. School-sponsored student media does not include student expression related to classes that are not directly associated with student publications/productions. The term publication shall include distribution, transmission, and dissemination of a student publication regardless of its medium. Student publications shall include any written materials, (including, but not limited to, banners, flyers, posters, pamphlets, notices, newspapers, playbills, yearbooks, literary journals, books, and t-shirts and other school-sponsored clothing), as well as material in electronic or on-line form (including, but not limited to, Apps and Services (as defined in Bylaw 0100, webpages/sites, web logs ('Blogs), video or audio clips, (postings of Social Media (as defined in Bylaw 0100), and newsletters of announcements transmitted by e-mail, text, wireless broadcast, or other similar distribution/dissemination).

The term performance shall include presentation and broadcast of a student production. Student productions shall include vocal, musical, and/or theatrical performance, impromptu dramatic presentation, or any electronic media (including, but not limited to, radio and television programs, videoblogs (vlogs), podcast, Social Media (as defined in Bylaw 0100), and other video or audio productions that are recorded for re-broadcast or broadcast in real time using any available broadcast technology) and other video or audio productions that are recorded for re-broadcast or broadcast in real time using any available broadcast technology). The Board expressly prohibits the use of Social Media related to student productions.

Only District-approved social media (as defined in Bylaw 0100) may be used to host school-sponsored student media, in accordance with Policy 7544. School-sponsored student media must also comply with Policy 7540.02.

For purposes of this policy, school community is defined to include students, Board employees (i.e., administrators, and professional and classified staff), parent/family members and other individuals who are authorized or otherwise permitted by the Superintendent to view a performance or receive directly from the District a publication.

The following speech is unprotected and prohibited in all school-sponsored student publications and productions: speech that is defamatory, libelous, obscene, or harmful to minors (as that term is defined in Children's Internet Protection Action (CIPA)); speech that is reasonably likely to cause substantial disruption of or material interference with school activities or the educational process; speech that infringes upon the privacy or rights of others; speech that violates copyright law; speech that promotes activities, products or services that are unlawful (illegal) as to minors as defined by State or Federal law; and speech that otherwise violates school policy and/or State or Federal law. The Board authorizes the administration to engage in prior review and restraint of school-sponsored publications and productions to prevent the publication or performance of unprotected speech.

Student expression relates to classrooms or educational settings not otherwise directly associated with school-sponsored student publications/productions are nonpublic forums. As nonpublic forums, the content of such student expression can be regulated for legitimate pedagogical school-related reasons. School officials shall routinely and systematically review and, if necessary, restrict the content of these student expressions prior to publication/performance in a reasonable manner that is neutral as to the viewpoint of the speaker.

While ordinarily nonpublic forum student expression may only be published/performed to members of the school community, the Superintendent may authorize specific nonpublic forum student expression to be published/performed outside the school community (i.e., to the general public). A teacher, student, or group of students who wish to have nonpublic forum student expression published/performed outside the school community must submit to the Superintendent a request for prior written approval for such publication/performance. See Board Policy 9160 – Public Attendance at School Events.

The Board designates all school-sponsored student media as limited-purpose public forums where students can address matters of concern and/or interest to their readers/viewers. All school-sponsored student media may be published/performed outside the school community. The student journalists, content-creators and/or performers involved in these publications/productions have the right to determine the content of the student media.

The content may address general matters of public concern and is open to the public at large for comment at the discretion of the student journalists/content-creators/performers. School officials will not review or restrict the content of school-sponsored student media prior to publication/performance, except with respect to unprotected speech.

Each medium should provide a full opportunity for students to inquire, question, and exchange ideas.

Content should reflect all areas of student interest and may include topics about which there may be dissent and/or controversy.

All school-sponsored student media shall contain a notice to the reader/viewer that the material, while school-sponsored, is student-directed and not subject to prior review. Given all student publications and/or productions have been designated as limited-purpose public forums, the school assumes no liability for their content. With editorial control comes responsibility. Student journalists, content-creators, and performers are expected to establish and enforce standards, for their publications/productions that are consistent with professional journalism/artistic/theatrical/broadcast standards.

Students shall not be disciplined and/or retaliated against for exercising and/or asserting their free speech rights as defined in this policy. Nothing in this policy, however, restricts the Board's ability to impose post-publication/performance discipline related to a student engaging in the impermissible publication/performance of unprotected speech.

Advertising is permitted in all school-sponsored student media.

Advertisements submitted for publication or inclusion in a production shall be reviewed by the class/activity advisor for a determination that they are appropriate for juveniles. The Superintendent retains the final authority to determine whether an advertisement is appropriate and will be included in a publication/production. Advertisements may be rejected for legitimate pedagogical school-related reasons unrelated to the viewpoint of the advertiser (e.g., the advertisement encourages action that would endanger the health and safety of students).

General Prohibitions

Regardless of their status as non-public or limited-purpose public forums, the Board prohibits publications, productions, and advertisements that:

- A. promote, favor, or oppose any candidate for election or the adoption of any bond issue, proposal, or question submitted at any election;
- B. fail to identify the student or organization responsible for the publication/performance;
- C. solicit funds for non-school organizations or institutions when such solicitation has not been approved by the Board.

© Neola 2021