FREEDOM OF SPEECH/EXPRESSION

The Governing Board believes that free inquiry and exchange of ideas are essential parts of a democratic education. The Board respects students' rights to express ideas and opinions, take stands on issues, and support causes, even when such speech is controversial or unpopular. Additionally, the Board is committed to providing a welcoming, safe, and supportive school environment that protects students from discrimination, harassment, intimidation, and bullying, or other types of expression prohibited by law.

Students shall have the right to exercise freedom of speech and of the press including, but not limited to, the use of bulletin boards; the use of official district or school websites or social media accounts identified and made available for such purposes; the distribution of printed materials or petitions; the wearing of buttons, badges, and other insignia; and the right of expression in official school publications. (Education Code 48907)

Students' freedom of expression shall be restricted only as established by this Board policy, the accompanying administration regulation, Education Code 234.1, 48907, and 48950, and other applicable state and federal laws. Such restrictions include, but are not limited to, prohibitions against students making any expressions or distributing or posting any materials that:

1. Are obscene, libelous, or slanderous
2. Are discriminatory, harassing, intimidating, or bullying
3. Are likely to immediately incite action on district property or during district-sponsored programs or activities that is unlawful or that violates Board policies, administrative regulations, or other district or school rules
4. Substantially disrupt the orderly operation of the district

Additionally, the use of "fighting words" or epithets is prohibited where they are abusive and insulting, rather than merely offensive or provocative, and they are likely to create an actual danger that will cause a breach of the peace.

District staff shall not prohibit or prevent the distribution of, or otherwise censor, material prepared for official school publications except insofar as the content of the material violates this Board policy and the accompanying administrative regulation. (Education Code 48907)

Off-campus student expression, such as electronic expression via a personal device or online expression via a personal social media account, may subject a student to discipline when such expression poses a threat to the safety of other district students, staff, or property, or does or is likely to substantially disrupt the district's educational program. As necessary, the Superintendent or designee shall document the actual or expected impact of the expression.

Student expression that violates this Board policy or the accompanying administrative regulation may be subject to discipline in accordance with Board Policy/Administrative Regulation 5144 - Discipline, Board Policy/Administrative Regulation 5144.1 - Suspension and Expulsion/Due Process, and Administrative Regulation 5144.2 - Suspension and Expulsion/Due Process (Students with Disabilities).

State	Description
CA Constitution Article 1, Section 2	Freedom of speech and expression
Ed. Code 234-234.5	Safe Place to Learn Act
Ed. Code 48205	Excused absences
Ed. Code 48907	Exercise of free expression; time, place, and manner rules and regulations
Ed. Code 48950	Speech and other communication
Ed. Code 51520	Prohibited solicitations on school premises