Freedom Of Speech/Expression

Time, Place, and Manner Restrictions for Student Expression

Each principal or designee may annually identify physical or electronic locations, such as school courtyards, bulletin boards, or social media accounts, on which students and student organizations may hold a public rally, express and debate issues, or post information of general interest. Additionally, students may distribute handbills, leaflets, and other printed or electronic material, whether produced within or outside of the school. In addition, students may collect signatures on petitions concerning school or nonschool issues. All such expression in a given year shall be limited to the locations identified by the principal or designee for that year.

Materials or petitions may be distributed only:

1. Before or after school or during lunch time

2. For printed materials or petitions, in locations that do not obstruct the normal flow of traffic within the school or at entrances

No student shall use coercion to induce any other student or person to accept materials or to sign a petition. No funds shall be collected for any material distributed.

At the principal or designee's discretion, any materials or petitions may be required to include a disclaimer indicating that views, ideas, and opinions expressed in the materials or petitions are not sponsored by and do not necessarily reflect those of the school or district.

Permissible buttons, badges, armbands, and clothing bearing slogans or sayings may be worn at all times. No employee shall interfere with such expression solely on the grounds that the message may be controversial or unpopular with students or faculty. (Education Code 234.1, 48907)

Official School Publications

Official school publications are materials produced by students in journalism or yearbook courses or programs, student clubs or organizations, student newspapers or other student publications, or writing classes, and distributed to the public or to the student body either for a fee or free. (Education Code

48907)

Each principal may develop a school publications code outlining the responsibility of the students who produce or support the production of content for official student publications and the staff who serve as advisors of official student publications.

All official student publications shall be held to professional standards of language and journalism. (Education Code 48907)

If a staff advisor to an official student publication or other school staff with similar responsibility determines that material intended for inclusion in an official student publication violates the accompanying Board policy or this regulation, the staff advisor or other school staff shall first consider any feasible alternative options to limiting the material. If no other option is feasible, the staff advisor or other school staff shall notify the official student publication, via the student editor-in-chief or similar position, and the student authors of the material without undue delay and shall provide specific reasons for why the submitted material may not be published. Absent extraordinary circumstances, such notice shall be given in sufficient time to allow the official student publication or the student authors to either modify the material or request review by the Superintendent or designee.

At the principal's discretion, all official student publications may be required to include a disclaimer indicating that views, ideas, and opinions expressed in official student publications do not necessarily reflect those of the school or district.

Student Participation in Civic or Political Events

Upon providing advanced notice and in accordance with Board Policy/Administrative Regulation 5113 - Absences and Excuses, a student in middle or high school shall be permitted one excused absence per school year in order to participate in a civic or political event such as voting, poll working, strikes, public commenting, or attending candidate speeches, political or civic forums, or town halls. (Education Code 48205)

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