

Student publications serve several functions, the most fundamental of which is to instruct students in the basic skills of responsible journalism within the school setting.

School publications also provide opportunities for student expression, and within the framework of law, shall be free to provide thoughtful, relevant comment on topics of interest to readers.

Student publications keep the community informed of school activities in a constructive fashion.

Faculty advisers will monitor style, grammar, format, and appropriateness of materials. Students shall be directed by faculty advisers to judge literary value, newsworthiness, propriety, and to recognize and edit material that is obscene, libelous or slanderous, or apt to incite students to the commission of unlawful acts, violation of school regulations, or substantial disruption of school operations.

As designee of the Board of Trustees, the principal is responsible for instructing the faculty adviser on all legal requirements pertinent to the right to publish and to provide the student editors and advisers with a prompt decision when conflicts occur on the appropriateness of materials.

Student journalists are responsible for determining the content of their publications and are subject to state law and the policies of the Board of Trustees. In addition, the students will adhere to the *Code of Ethics of Canons of Journalism*.

1.0 Definition of Official School Publications

Official school publications shall include newspapers, yearbooks, and literary magazines which are prepared in regularly scheduled classes or by approved cocurricular organizations and supervised by a faculty adviser appointed by the principal.

2.0 Responsibilities of Student Journalists

Student journalists shall be responsible for the publication of factual material which is not obscene, libelous, or slanderous. Further, the material shall not incite students to the commission of unlawful acts, violation of school regulations, or substantial disruption of school operations.

Student journalists shall learn and follow the Code of Ethics of the American Society of Newspaper Editors.

3.0 Responsibilities of Journalism Advisers

Journalism advisers shall instruct student journalists in the Code of Ethics of the American Society of Newspaper Editors and help students understand and follow it. Advisers shall instruct students in correct and appropriate journalistic techniques and consult with the principal on material that may violate the law or the journalism Code of Ethics. Material that may be considered controversial by some members of the school community should be carefully considered by students in consultation with the adviser, and brought to the attention of the principal by the adviser.

4.0 Responsibilities of the School Principal

The school principal is responsible for informing the journalism adviser about the legal requirements affecting student publications. The principal will render a decision on all matters affecting school publications within one school day after material is submitted to him/her for review.

Reference:

Education Code Section 48907

Board of Trustees

October 12, 1978

Reviewed: April 10, 1986

Reviewed: March 8, 1990

Reviewed: November 1993

Revised: August 2000

Reviewed: April 2005

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