

## **DISTRIBUTION OF PRINTED MATERIALS ON SCHOOL PREMISES**

1.0 The right of the student to individual freedom of expression shall not be restricted unless its exercise interferes with the orderly conduct of classes, disruptive to the school environment and process or any school program. Within that limitation, students may freely express their points of view provided they do not attempt to coerce others to join their mode of expression and provided also that they do not otherwise intrude upon the rights of others.

2.0 School officials have the duty to provide for an ordered educational program free from turmoil and distraction. Opportunity for individuals to express their views is provided through official student publications as defined in Superintendent Policy 6260. Unofficial publications by students are subject to the procedures which follow.

### **Content**

3.0 All publications shall reflect and be guided by the restrictions and regulations governing responsible journalism as defined by the American Society of Newspaper Editors as stated in its Code of Ethics as published in the "Guideline," Code: 56501. The responsibility for the content of a publication shall rest with the individuals responsible for the publication. No publication or distribution of material will be permitted when it would endanger the health or safety of the students, imminently threaten to disrupt the educational process, or contain slanderous or libelous statements.

4.0 A publication shall be considered unacceptable when it contains:

4.1 attacks on ethnic, religious, or racial groups;

4.2 irresponsible statements which tend to or create hostility or are conducive to violence;

4.3 profane, obscene, libelous or slanderous material as interpreted in relation to the school setting rather than as may be circulated to the public at large;  
and,

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4.4 commercial advertisements or solicitations for funds except when such material receives prior approval from the principal and is related to school activities.

**Distribution**

5.0 Distribution of unofficial publications outside the school buildings shall not be restricted unless such distribution creates or contributes to: interference with the educational program, congestion or disruption of pedestrian or vehicular traffic, interference with access to the buildings, or presents a potential threat to the safety of any person. In such cases, the principal may restrict or disallow distribution as defined in "Review of Restriction of Distribution of Printed Materials," Code: 5660.

**Time**

6.0 The principal or designee shall have authority to prescribe the times and manner of any distribution of printed materials as reasonably necessary to ensure that there is no substantial disruption of or interference with school processes.

**Disciplinary or Legal Actions**

7.0 Students who participate in the distribution or circulation of materials on school premises in violation of this policy, or any administrative rules implemented pursuant to this policy, shall be subject to school disciplinary action, including suspension or expulsion, and legal proceedings when appropriate.

8.0 Non-students who participate in the distribution or circulation of materials on school premises in violation of this policy, or administrative rules implemented pursuant to this policy, shall be subject to appropriate legal proceedings.