

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION

The free expression of student opinion is an important part of education in a democratic society. **The district encourages** students' verbal and written expression of opinion on school premises ~~is to be encouraged~~ so long as it does not substantially disrupt the operation of the school **or otherwise violate this policy**. Students are expressly prohibited from the use of vulgar and/or offensive terms in classroom or assembly settings.

~~The superintendent will develop guidelines assuring that students are able to enjoy free expression of opinion while maintaining orderly conduct of the school.~~

Student Publications

Student publications produced as part of the school's curriculum or with the support of the associated student body fund are intended to serve both as vehicles for instruction and student communication. **Although substantively financed and operated by the district, student editors of school sponsored media are responsible for determining the news, opinions, feature, and advertising content of the media, consistent with chapter 28A.600 RCW. Materials appearing in such publications may reflect various areas of student interest, including topics about which there may be controversy and dissent. When engaging with a controversial issue, student publications should strive to provide in-depth treatment and represent a variety of viewpoints. Such material may not:**

- **Be libelous or slanderous;**
- **Be an unwarranted invasion of privacy;**
- **Be obscene or profane, such that it would violate federal or state laws, rules or regulations or incites to violate federal or state laws, rules or regulations, including the standards established by the federal communications act or applicable federal communication rules or regulations;**
- **Cause a substantial disruption of the school;**
- **Violate district policy or procedure related to harassment, intimidation, bullying, or related to the prohibition of discrimination pursuant to RCW 28A.642.010.**
- **Violate federal or state laws, rules, regulations, or advocate the violation of such laws; or**
- **Advertise tobacco products, liquor, cannabis, illicit drugs, or drug paraphernalia.**

~~They are operated and substantively financed by the district.~~

~~Material appearing in such publications should reflect all areas of student interest, including topics about which there may be controversy and dissent. Controversial issues may be presented provided that they are treated in depth and represent a variety of viewpoints. Such materials may not: be libelous, obscene or profane; cause a substantial disruption of the school, invade the privacy of others; demean any race, religion, sex, or ethnic group; or, advocate the violation of the law or advertise tobacco products, liquor, illicit drugs, or drug paraphernalia.~~

The superintendent will develop guidelines, **assuring that students are able to exercise freedom of expression so long it does not present a material and substantial disruption of the orderly operation of the school, to implement implementing** these standards **above**, and ~~will~~ establishing procedures for the prompt review of any materials which appear not to comply with the standards.

Distribution of Materials

Students and district staff may distribute student publications or other materials on school premises ~~may be distributed on school premises~~ in accordance with procedures developed by the

**Policy 3220
Students**

superintendent. Such procedures may impose limits on the time, place, and manner of distribution including prior authorization for the posting of such material on school property.

Students responsible for the distribution of material which leads to a substantial disruption of school activity or otherwise interferes with school operations will be subject to corrective action, including suspension or expulsion, consistent with student discipline policies.

Materials will not be distributed on school grounds by non-students and non-employees of the district.

Cross References: Board Policy 2340
Religious-Related

Activities and Practices

Board Policy 3241
Legal References: WAC 392-40-215
Student rights.

Classroom Management,
Discipline and Corrective
Actions

Management Resources: Policy News May 2018

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North Kitsap School District