

STUDENTS - Series 500

503 Student Activities

503.3 Student Publications

Students may produce official school publications as part of the curriculum under the supervision of a faculty advisor and the principal.

Official school publications include student publications or broadcasts, including newspapers, yearbooks, literary magazines, television, radio or cable television programs produced in curricular and co-curricular journalism or journalism-related activities sponsored by the school district and distributed to the student body either free or for a fee.

Any expressions made by students in the exercise of free speech, including student expression in official school publications, is not an expression of official school policy. The school district, the board, and the school district employees or officials are not liable in any civil or criminal action for any student expression made or published by students, unless the school district employees or officials have interfered with or altered the content of the student speech or expression. The liability, if any, is only to the extent of the interference or alteration of the speech or expression.

Official school publications are free from prior restraint by school district employees or officials except as provided by law. Exceptions are as follows:

-No student shall express, publish or distribute in an official school publication material which is:

- a. obscene;
- b. libelous;
- c. slanderous; or
- d. encourages students to:
 1. commit unlawful acts;
 2. violate school rules;
 3. cause the material and substantial disruption of the orderly and efficient operation of the school or school activity;
 4. disrupt or interfere with the educational program;
 5. interrupt the maintenance of a disciplined atmosphere; or
 6. infringe on the rights of others.

Responsibilities of students are as follows:

1. Students writing or editing official school publications shall assign and edit the news, editorial and feature contents of the official school publications subject to the limitations

of this policy and the law.

2. Students shall strive to achieve professional standards of accuracy, fairness, objectivity and thoroughness in each and every aspect of official school publications.
3. Students shall strive to achieve professional standards of grammar, usage, punctuation and spelling, for clarity and accuracy of official school publications. -
4. All publications and broadcasts must identify the author and/or editor publisher.

Faculty advisors shall supervise student writers to maintain professional standards of English and journalism and to comply with the law, including, but not limited to, the restrictions against unlawful speech.

Official student publications may be distributed in a reasonable manner on or off school premises. Nonschool-sponsored publications and broadcasts must be submitted to the principal for review prior to distribution. The administration may prohibit the distribution of nonschool-sponsored publications and broadcasts by applying the same standards listed above. The principal may designate the time, place and manner of distribution for all student publications and broadcasts, school-sponsored or otherwise.

Persons, other than students, who believe they have been aggrieved by student expression in a student produced official school publication shall follow the grievance procedure outlined in board policy 1003.3. Students who believe their freedom of expression in a student produced official school publication has been restricted shall follow the grievance procedure outlined in board policy 502.7.

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Legal Reference: Hazelwood School District v. Kuhlmeier, 108 S.Ct. 562 (1988).
Iowa Code S280.22 (1989). F

Cross Reference: 502.7 Student Grievances & Appeals
500 Statement of Guiding Principles for Students
503 Student Activities
1002.5 Citizens' Concerns about School Personnel