

POLICY: 502.10

STUDENTS AND THEIR FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION

Student expression can occur in Official Publications, Unofficial publications/materials, and through other methods. When student expression other than in official or unofficial publications is made: (1) on District property or premises, (2) as part of a school sponsored activity, or (3) while under the jurisdiction of District staff, such expression shall be responsible and appropriate.

Responsible expression: To be responsible, student expression shall not, in the judgement of District Administration, encourage the breaking of laws, cause defamation of persons, be obscene or indecent, or cause a material and substantial disruption to the educational program. Administration, when making such a judgement, shall consider whether the activity in which the expression was made is school-sponsored and whether review or prohibition of the student(s)' speech furthers an educational purpose. Further, the expression must be done in a reasonable time, place, and manner that is not disruptive to the orderly and efficient operation of the school and/or District.

Appropriate expression: Student expression must be appropriate to assure that the potential audience is not exposed to expression that may be harmful or inappropriate for the level of maturity of the receivers of the expression.

Students who violate this policy will be subject to disciplinary measures. Employees shall be responsible for insuring students' expression is in accordance with this policy.

LEGAL REFERENCE: Hazelwood School District v. Kuhlmeier, 484 U.S. 260 (1988).
Bethel School District v. Fraser, 478 U.S. 675 (1986).
Tinker v. Des Moines Independent Community School District, 393 U.S. 503 (1969).
Bystrom v. Fridley High School, 822 F.2d 747 (8th Cir. 1987).
Iowa Code § 279.8; 280.22; 282.3 (1993).
U.S. Constitution, Amendment I

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