OFFICIAL STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

Official student publications are those created by Fort Dodge student writers/media producers and published through District classroom teachers or advisors. The production of such publications is encouraged. However, student expression in official student publications shall not be deemed an expression of the school or the District. Official publications, sponsored or authorized by District staff, are a result of implementing the District's curriculum. Official student publications include two types:

(a) school publications (e.g. newspaper, yearbook, video yearbook, TV program, literary magazine)

(b) classroom publications (e.g. classroom writings booklet, video productions.)

Students have the right to exercise their freedom of expression by publishing, broadcasting, or distributing official student publications. This right shall be denied only when the material to be published, broadcast, or distributed:

(a) is obscene, libelous, or slanderous;
(b) encourages students to commit unlawful acts, violate lawful school rules;
(c) would cause material and substantial disruption of the orderly and efficient operation of the school or school activity.

Official student publications shall meet the standards outlined in Procedures: Exhibit 502.9 for distribution.

The Principal or his/her designee is designated as the person to make a final denial decision.

The school district, the board, and the employees or officials are not liable in any civil or criminal action for any student expression made or published by students unless the 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 employees or officials except as provided by law. A faculty advisor will 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. The production of official school publications is guided by the law and by the ethical standards adopted by professional associations or societies of journalism.
Bystrom v. Fridley High School, 822 F.2d 747 (8th Cir. 1987).
Iowa Code 280.22.

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