

STUDENTS

Restrictions on Publications and Written or Electronic Material: Elementary Schools

School-Sponsored Publications and Web Sites

School-sponsored publications and productions are part of the curriculum and are not a public forum for general student use. School authorities may edit or delete material which is inconsistent with the District's educational mission.

All school sponsored communications shall comply with the ethics and rules of responsible journalism. Text that is libelous, obscene, vulgar or indecent invades the privacy of others, conflicts with the basic educational mission of the school, is socially inappropriate due to the maturity of the students, or is materially disruptive to the educational process or is likely to endanger the health and safety of students or other persons on school premises will not be tolerated.

The author's name will accompany personal opinions and editorial statements. An opportunity for the expression of differing opinions from those published/produced will be provided within the same media.

Non-School-Sponsored Publications and Web Sites Accessed or Distributed at School

For purposes of this section and the following section, a publication includes, without limitation: (1) written or electronic print material, (2) audio-visual material on any medium including electromagnetic media (e.g., images, digital files, flash memory, etc.), or combinations of these whether off-line (e.g., a printed book, digital files, etc.) or online (e.g., any website, social networking site, database for information retrieval, etc.), or (3) information or material on electronic devices (e.g., text or voice messages delivered by cell phones, tablets, and other hand-held devices).

Creating, distributing, and/or accessing non-school sponsored publications shall occur at a time and place and in a manner that will not cause disruption, be coercive, or result in the perception that the distribution or the publication is endorsed by the School District.

Students are prohibited from accessing and/or distributing at school any written or electronic material, including material from the Internet that:

1. Will cause substantial disruption of the proper and orderly operation and discipline of the school or school activities;
2. Violates the rights of others, including but not limited to, material that is libelous, invades the privacy of others, or infringes on a copyright;
3. Is socially inappropriate or inappropriate due to maturity level of the students, including but not limited to, material that is obscene, pornographic, or pervasively lewd and vulgar, or contains indecent and vulgar language or *sexting* as defined by School Board policy;
4. Is reasonably viewed as promoting illegal drug use; or
5. Is distributed in kindergarten through eighth grade and is primarily prepared by non-students unless it is being used for school purposes. Nothing herein shall be interpreted to prevent the inclusion of material from outside sources or the citation to such source as long as the material to be distributed or accessed is primarily prepared by students.

Accessing or distributing "at school" includes distribution on school property or at school-related activities. A student engages in gross disobedience and misconduct and may be disciplined for: (1) accessing or distributing forbidden material, or (2) for writing, creating, or publishing such material intending for it to be accessed or distributed at school.

Non-School Sponsored Publications Accessed or Distributed Not At School

A student engages in gross disobedience and misconduct and may be disciplined for creating and/or distributing written or electronic material, including Internet material and blogs, that causes substantial disruption to school operations, constitutes cyberbullying, or interferes with the rights of other students or staff members.

Bullying and Cyberbullying

The Superintendent or designee shall treat behavior that is bullying and/or cyberbullying according to Board policy 7:180, Prevention of and Response to Bullying, Intimidation, and Harassment, in addition to any response required by this policy.

LEGAL REF: 105 ILCS 5/27-23.7,
Hazelwood v. Kuhlmeier, (1988).
Tinker v. Des Moines Indep. Cmty. Sch. Dist., (1969).
Hedges v. Wauconda Cmty. Unit Sch. Dist. No. 118, 9F.3d 1295 (7th Cir. 1993).

CROSS REF: 6:235 (Computer Use), 7:180 (Preventing Bullying, Intimidation, and Harassment), 8:25 (Advertising and Distributing Materials in Schools by Non-School Related Entities)

Revised: September 25, 2006
Approved: January 11, 2007
Revised: February 9, 2015
Adopted: February 23, 2015
Revised: February 13, 2017
Adopted: February 27, 2017
Reviewed: February 28, 2022
Approved: March 21, 2022