

SECTION: PUPILS

TITLE: STUDENT EXPRESSION

ADOPTED: August 12, 1991

REVISED:

Farrell Area School District

220. STUDENT EXPRESSION

1. Purpose

Title 22
Sec. 12.9
SC 511

The Board respects the right of students to express themselves in word or symbol and to distribute materials as a part of that expression, but it recognizes that the exercise of that right must be limited by the need to maintain an orderly school environment and to protect the rights of all members of the school community.

2. Authority

The Board reserves the right to designate and prohibit manifestations of student expression which are not protected by the right of free expression because they violate the rights of others. Such expressions are those which:

libel any specific person or persons.

seek to establish the supremacy of a particular religious denomination, sect or point of view.

advocate the use or advertise the availability of any substance or material which may reasonably be believed to constitute a direct and substantial danger to the health of students.

are obscene or contain material otherwise deemed to be harmful to impressionable students who may receive them.

incite violence, advocate the use of force, or urge the violation of law or school regulations.

solicit funds for nonschool organizations or institutions when such solicitations have not been approved by the Board.

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In imposing limitations on student expression for any reason, the Board must ensure that its rules are applied on a non-discriminatory basis and in a manner designed to assure maximum freedom of expression to the students.

3. Delegation of Responsibility

The Superintendent shall develop rules and regulations for the distribution of printed material.

4. Guidelines

Pol. 219

The school shall particularly avoid any action placing restraints on ideas prior to their expression. Any student or student group deprived of freedom of expression under any of these guidelines shall have the right to the complaint procedure.

Publications

Student publications are important elements of the instructional program and contribute directly to the accomplishment of the schools' goals. The Board wishes to support the development of student-produced school newspapers, annuals, and magazines.

The supervision of student publications shall be vested in the faculty advisor and student staff, with provisions for direct approval by the principal, Superintendent and Board.

Bulletin Boards

School authorities may restrict the use of all bulletin boards to school announcements. Ample bulletin board space shall be provided for the use of students and student organizations.

Identification shall be required on any posted notice of the student or student group issuing same.

The school shall require that notices or other communications be officially dated before posting and that such material be removed after a prescribed, reasonable time to assure full access to the bulletin boards.

Buttons and Badges

The wearing of buttons, badges, or armbands bearing slogans or sayings shall be permitted as another form of expression, unless the message falls within the restricted categories.



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Publications

1. The principal of each school which sponsors a student publication shall provide for the selection of a faculty advisor, who in turn will provide for the selection of a student staff.
2. The faculty advisor and student staff will set up and maintain a manual for the guidance of editors of student publications which will contain at least the following features:
 - a. Style guides.
 - b. Guides to questions of taste and appropriateness.
 - c. Guides to cost limits.
 - d. Statements of Board policy and purposes for student publications.
3. Rules will adhere to the regulations on Student Rights and Responsibilities according to Basic Education Circular #139.

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