

STUDENTS

Publications and Distribution or Posting of Materials*School-Sponsored Publications*

School-sponsored publications and productions are part of the curriculum and are not a public forum for general student use. Material appearing in such publications whether print or electronic should reflect all areas of student interest, including topics about which there may be controversy and dissent.

Controversial issues may be presented provided they are treated in depth and/or represent a variety of viewpoints. Such materials may not be libelous, obscene, invade the privacy of others, or conflict with the basic educational mission of the school. Materials which are socially inappropriate or inappropriate due to the maturity level of the students, or are materially disruptive to the educational process will not be tolerated. School-sponsored publications may not advertise tobacco, tobacco innovations, liquor, illicit drugs or drug paraphernalia. The author's name will accompany personal opinions and editorial statements.

All student media shall comply with the ethics and rules of responsible journalism. School authorities may edit or delete material which they determine is inconsistent with the District's educational mission.

Non-School Sponsored Publications

Distribution in school of written material that is obscene, libelous, invades the privacy of others, will cause substantial disruption of the proper and orderly operation and discipline of the school or school activities, or advocates conduct otherwise inconsistent with shared values of a civilized social order is prohibited. Distribution in school includes distribution on school property or at school-related activities. Students who distribute such material or who write or publish such material for distribution engage in gross disobedience and misconduct and will be disciplined in accordance with Board policy.

Distribution and Posting of Materials

To facilitate the distribution of materials with information about student activities, each school building may maintain a centrally located bulletin board for the posting of materials, and/or maintain a table available to groups for placing approved materials.

School-sponsored groups are permitted to distribute materials directly to students. Outside groups, including governmental agencies, parent and student organizations not sponsored by the school, and community organizations, may be permitted to display their materials on a centrally located bulletin board and/or table available for the displaying of materials.

Materials from non-school sponsored groups to be distributed directly to students or to be posted in schools must be submitted to the Assistant Superintendent's Office for prior approval. The District may

require that the group submit the materials within a reasonable time period prior to the distribution or display to ensure the material is appropriate.

The District has the discretion to require that materials from outside groups contain the following disclaimer: *“These materials are neither sponsored nor endorsed by the District, the Superintendent, or this school.”*

Legal Reference: § 20-5-201, MCA Duties and Sanctions

Cross References:

Policy History:

Adopted on: 6.14.2016

Revised on: 1.14.2025

Reviewed on: