

Series 500 – Student Personnel

Policy Title: PUBLICATIONS

Policy Code No. 503.2

Student publications shall be published under the supervision of the building principal or designee. Writings or pictures of a defamatory or a pornographic nature will not be approved.

1. Students of the public schools have the right to exercise freedom of speech, including the right of expression in official school publications. “Official school publications” means material produced by students in the journalism, newspaper, yearbook, or writing classes and distributed to the student body.
2. Students shall not express, publish, or distribute any of the following:
 - a. Materials which are obscene.
 - b. Materials which are libelous or slanderous under Iowa Code.
 - c. Materials which encourage students to do any of the following:
 - (1) Commit unlawful acts.
 - (2) Violate lawful school regulations.
 - (3) Cause the material and substantial disruption of the orderly operation of the school.
3. There shall be no prior restraint of material prepared for official school publications except when the material violates this policy.
4. Student editors of official school publications shall assign and edit the news, editorial, and feature content of their publications subject to the limitations of this policy. Journalism advisers of students producing official school publications shall supervise the production of the student staff to maintain professional standards of English and journalism and to comply with this policy.
5. Any expression made by students in the exercise of free speech, including student expression in official school publications, shall not be deemed to be an expression of school policy. The public school district and school employees or officials shall not be liable in any civil or criminal action for any student expression made or published by students, unless the school

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employees or officials have interfered with or altered the content of the student speech or expression, and then only to the extent of the interference or alterations of the speech or expression.

6. This policy in the form of a written publication shall be made available to the students and their parents/guardians.
7. This policy does not prohibit the Board of Directors from adopting otherwise valid rules relating to oral communications by students upon the premises of each school.

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