

Instruction

Publications

BP 6145.3

While serving to instruct students in the basic skills of responsible journalism, official school publications shall be free to provide thoughtful, relevant commentaries on all topics within the bounds of good taste. At the same time, the paper should be free to exercise the rights guaranteed by the First Amendment to the Constitution: freedom of the press and of speech without fear of recrimination.

Student editors in journalism, newspaper, yearbook, and writing classes shall assign and edit the news, editorial and feature content of their publications. Faculty advisors shall help the student editors judge the literary value, newsworthiness and propriety of materials submitted for publication. All statements and editorials must be substantiated by fact. Editorials may freely aim constructive criticism at school organizations, procedures, and policies, but such criticism should reflect the opinions of a cross-section of the publication staff. Editorial columns which express only the opinion of the writer shall be bylined.

As space permits, editorial pages shall be open to any students wishing to express their ideas or to rebut editorials in a letter. School newspapers shall print a fair selection and accurate representation of the letters they receive.

Faculty advisors shall supervise student publications so as to maintain professional standards of English and journalism and to assure that their content complies with the provisions of Board policy. Censorship of the publication should be restricted to the student staff and the advisor. Only when compromise can't be reached should third party be consulted. The third party should be a member of the faculty or administration, designated by the principal. The advisor has the responsibility for reviewing all articles to be printed. The advisors and/or principal shall exercise no prior restraint of prepared material except as provided in the Publications Code (BP 5145.2) for that which is unsubstantiated by fact, obscene, libelous, slanderous, or incites students to commit unlawful acts, violate school rules, or disrupt school operations.

*(cf. 1111 - School-Sponsored Publications: Advertising)
(cf. 5145.2 - Freedom of Speech/Expression)*

Legal Reference:

EDUCATION CODE

48907 Student exercise of free expression

OLD

Policy
6145.3

Instruction

Publications

In order that students be provided with a learning device in which they may experience the concept of freedom of the press, the governing board authorizes the establishment of a school publication at each school site. Such publications shall provide an outlet for diverse opinions and report all suitable aspects of student life in an accurate, fair and objective manner.

(cf. Policy and Rule 5145.2 - Freedom of Speech/Expression)

Legal Reference: Education Code
48916 Exercise of Free Expression; Rules and
Regulations

Instruction

PUBLICATIONS

AR 6145.3 (a)

A school publication should be an outlet for communication. It should do this by providing a learning experience both for those involved in its production and the recipients of the finished product. It should educate the community in the work of the school and the achievements of the students, and student organizations. The paper should promote communications among students, the faculty, the administration, and other schools.

Freedom of Speech/Press

At the same time, the paper should be free to exercise the rights guaranteed by the First Amendment to the Constitution: freedom of the press and of speech without fear of recrimination. The paper should have the freedom to cover all areas of news pertinent to the school and within the bounds of good taste. This includes school, local, state, and international news. The newspapers' emphasis and priority will be placed on school news.

In order to attain these freedoms and experiences, students will be offered opportunities to inform, entertain, investigate, interpret, and evaluate all aspects of life. The newspaper will also encourage and stimulate worthwhile activities and aid in developing acceptable standards of conduct. It will make special efforts to mention as many people as possible, thus giving an accurate cross-section of the student body.

(cf 5145.2 Freedom of Speech/Expression)

Editorial Policy

The newspaper should also have the freedom to aim constructive criticism at organizations, procedures, and policies in the school, but it should refrain from criticizing individuals in the editorial section. All editorials should reflect the opinions of the newspaper staff and be approved by a cross-section of the editorial staff. However, all statements and editorials must be substantiated by fact.

An editorial column is defined as a persuasive column appearing on the editorial page, which expresses only the opinion of the writer. Such a column should be bylined; it should be in good taste and should never infringe on anyone's rights.

For those not directly involved in production, the editorial page will be open to any student wishing for expression of ideas. The newspaper will print an accurate representation of the letters to the editor. The paper, however, reserves the right to publish letters with the author's name unless the author requests that the name not be printed. The names will be available to anyone on request provided that the person making the request has a valid reason.

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The executive committee of the newspaper, which shall be composed of the editor-in-chief, the faculty adviser, the business manager and the page editors will act as the governing board of the newspaper, and will be held accountable for the enforcement of this policy. The editor-in-chief shall head the committee.

Instruction

Publications

AR 6145.3 (b)

Executive Committee

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Prior Restraint

There shall be no "prior constraint" of material prepared for official school publications (materials produced by students on the journalism, newspaper, yearbook, or writing classes and distributed to the student body either free or for a fee), except insofar as it is obscene, libelous, slanderous, or incites students so as to create a clear and present danger of the commission of unlawful acts on school premises or the violation of lawful school regulations, or the substantial disruption of the orderly operation of the school.

Censorship of the publication should be restricted to the student staff and the faculty adviser. Only when compromise can't be reached should a third party be consulted. The third party should be a member of the faculty or administration, designated by the principal. The faculty advisor has the responsibility for reviewing all articles to be printed.

School officials shall have the burden of showing justification without undue delay prior to any limitation of student expressions under this policy.

The printing of a byline to denote authorship for any article will be left to the editor's judgment.

OLD

Rule
6145.3(b)

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