

Policy

PUBLICATIONS

The River Edge Board of Education sponsors student publications as important elements of the instructional program. Students are encouraged to develop skills of written and verbal communication and to exercise the right to express their opinions freely and responsibly.

The rights of free speech, and free expression of students in public schools pursuant to the First Amendment, are not automatically coextensive with the rights of adults in other settings and shall be applied in light of the special characteristics of the school environment. The board of education reserves the right to exercise prepublication control over school-sponsored publications through administrative staff and faculty. Students shall have the right to appeal the exercise of censorship by school district staff to the board of education.

Student expression may be restricted, if it can be determined that such expression is inconsistent with the basic educational mission of the school district and when censorship action is reasonably related to legitimate educational concerns.

Students who violate this policy by expression, publication or distribution of any materials which are biased or prejudiced, vulgar or profane, unsuitable for immature audiences, or which do not meet the school district's high standards of learning and propriety consistent with its educational goals and objectives may be subject to appropriate discipline.

This policy shall be implemented in accordance with regulations to be developed by the superintendent. The regulations shall:

- A. Identify school district staff responsible for student publications;
- B. Establish procedures for prepublication review; and
- C. Specify procedures for appeal by students to the board of education with provisions for prompt decisions to be made at each level.

Web Sites

School-sponsored web sites are also subject to this policy and to the same regulatory constraints as are print publications.

Adopted: December 19, 1990
Revised: April 10, 1996, January 7, 2004
NJSBA Review/Update: September 2017
Readopted: November 28, 2018

Key Words

Publications, Student Publications

Legal References: N.J.S.A. 18A:11-1 General mandatory powers and duties
N.J.S.A. 18A:36-35 School Internet web sites; disclosure of certain student information prohibited
N.J.S.A. 18A:54-20 Powers of boards (county vocational schools)
N.J.A.C. 6A:8-3.1 et seq. Implementation of the New Jersey Student Learning

PUBLICATIONS (continued)

Standards

Tinker v. Des Moines Independent School District, 393 U.S. 503 (1969)

Bethel School District No. 403 v. Fraser, 478 U.S. 675 (1986)

Hazelwood School District v. Kuhlmeier, 484 U.S. 260 (1988)

Desilets v. Clearview Regional Board of Education, 137 N.J. 585 (1994)

Possible

Cross References: *1111 District publications
5145 Rights
5145.2 Freedom of speech/expression
*5145.5 Photographs of students
*6142.10 Technology

*Indicates policy is included in the Critical Policy Reference Manual