

Board Policy Document

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## **STUDENT PERSONNEL**

### ***Series 500***

**Policy Title:       School Sponsored Publications, Media, and  
                          Theatrical Productions**

**Code Number:     AR503.15**

#### **Definitions: Official School Publications**

Official school publication include, but are not limited to, material produced in journalism, newspaper, yearbook, theater, speech, writing classes, or other curriculum where the curricular outline calls in advance for such production of materials, where materials are distributed to the student body either free or for a fee. Such publications, materials and/or productions are deemed an integral part of the school curriculum, if produced within the confines of the curriculum and with the knowledge of a teacher or faculty advisor, and the Principal, and are not intended to be public forums.

#### **Range of Expression:**

Official school publications may include topics about which there may be dissent and controversy. However, a faculty advisor shall supervise student writers to maintain professional standards and to comply with the law as well as applicable school policies including, but not limited to, restrictions against unlawful speech. Student publications and productions shall not contain material prohibited by Board Policy 503.13 (Freedom of Expression).

#### **General Range of Restrictions:**

Official student publications and productions shall refrain from speech, illustrations or the distribution of materials which have content that cause a substantial disruption of, or material interference with school. Additionally, the administration shall at all times retain the authority to prohibit the printing,

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distribution, or production of such speech or materials, and may exercise editorial control over the style and content of student speech in school-sponsored publications, materials, and/or productions in any manner that is reasonably related to legitimate educational concerns. No student shall create, produce, publish or otherwise bring to fruition a school-sponsored publication or materials, media and/or theatrical production, which falls under the prohibited expressions of Board Policy 503.13 (freedom of expression).

**Distribution of Materials:**

Once approved and authorized, student publication materials may be distributed on school property, but only by students and employees of the district. Student-published materials shall not be distributed on school property by non-students or non-employees of the district. Students responsible for the distribution of non-approved materials, or of materials inconsistent with board policies 503.13 (Freedom of 'Expression); 503.15 (School Sponsored Publications, Media, and Theatrical Productions) or of these Administrative Regulations shall be subject to corrective action or punishment, including suspension or expulsion, consistent with student discipline procedures.

**School Supervision:**

Official school publications shall be produced under the supervision of faculty advisors who are acting with full knowledge of the Principal within an approved curricular area. Nothing in this paragraph shall be construed to limit the District's authority to prohibit the printing, distribution or production of student speech in a school-sponsored publication, in school-sponsored materials, and/or media and theatrical productions in any manner that is reasonably related to legitimate educational concerns.

**Responsibilities of Faculty Advisors:**

Faculty advisors shall supervise student writers to maintain professional standards of English and journalism to comply with the law including, but not limited to, the restrictions against unlawful speech.

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**Responsibilities of Students:**

Students writing or editing official school publications shall assign and edit the news, editorial, and feature contents of the official school publications subject to the limitations of law and any limitations set forth in administrative rules. All such student responsibilities shall be subject to review and revision by a faculty advisor.

Students shall strive to achieve professional standards of accuracy, fairness, objectivity and thoroughness in each and every aspect of official school publications.

Students shall strive to achieve professional standards of grammar, usage, punctuation and spelling for clarity and accuracy of official school publications.

**Time, Place and Manner of Restrictions on Official School Publications:**

Official school publications may be distributed in a reasonable manner on or off school premises. It is within the Administration's sole discretion to determine what constitutes "reasonable" distribution.

Distribution in a reasonable manner shall not encourage students to:

1. Commit unlawful acts;
2. Violate school rules;
3. Cause the material and substantial disruption of the orderly and efficient operation of the school district or school activity;
4. Infringe on the rights of others.

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