

STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

The School Committee will encourage student publications, not only because they offer an educational activity through which students gain experience in reporting, writing, editing, and understanding responsible journalism, but also because they provide an opportunity for students to express their views.

All student publications will be expected to comply with the rules for responsible journalism. This means that libelous statements, unfounded charges and accusations, obscenity, defamation of persons, false statements, material advocating racial or religious prejudice, hatred, violence, the breaking of laws or school regulations, or materials designed to disrupt the educational process will not be permitted.

The Superintendent will establish guidelines that are in keeping with the above and provide for the review of the content of all student publications prior to their distribution. Decisions regarding the enforcement of the provisions of this policy will rest with the Building Principal.

Review of content prior to publication is not censorship, but part of the educational process as this concerns student publications. It can be pointed out to students, as it frequently is to journalists, that a publisher (in this case, the school system) enjoys freedom to determine what it will and will not publish.

Distribution of Literature:

Students have a right to the distribution of literature on school grounds and in school buildings, except that the Principal may prohibit the distribution in school buildings of a specific issue or publication if it does not comply with the rules of journalism. The Principal may require that no literature be distributed unless a copy is submitted to him/her in advance.

The time, place and manner of distribution of literature will be reasonably regulated by the Building Principal.

LEGAL REFS.: M.G.L. [71:82](#); [71:86](#)

CROSS REF: School Student/Parent Handbook

Approved: September 22, 2008