

Student Publications/Productions

District Sponsored

Students' First Amendment rights to freedom of expression and equal protection of the law will be observed regarding district-sponsored student publications/productions. The observance of these rights must be balanced against the legitimate needs of the educational process.

Some student publications, such as yearbooks, videotapes and school newspapers, may be educational devices developed as part of the curriculum to benefit primarily those that compile, edit, produce and publish them. Staff advisors will be assigned to guide students engaged in these activities.

Students may be required to submit publications/productions for approval prior to distribution. When approval is required, school administrators must make available to students the standards used to determine granting or denying permission to publish. Such guidelines will be specific and will be directed toward ascertaining which publications/productions are inappropriate based on: the age or maturity of the reading/viewing audience; libelous, hateful, defamatory or obscene content; use of profane language; or the portrayal of illegal acts.

Prior restraints will contain criteria which spell out what is prohibited. A definite, brief time limit will be set within which school officials must approve or disapprove distribution. To be valid, these guidelines must prescribe a procedure for appeals from students.

All Publications

It will be the responsibility of local school administrators to promulgate reasonable and specific regulations setting forth the time, manner and place in which distribution of student publications/productions may occur. Students who become subject to discipline for failure to comply with distribution rules will be granted procedural due process rights.

END OF POLICY

Legal Reference(s):

[ORS 332.072](#)
[ORS 332.107](#)
[ORS 339.880](#)

[OAR 581-021-0050](#)
[OAR 581-021-0055](#)

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