

Missoula County Public Schools

Students 3221

Publications and Distribution or Posting of Materials

School-sponsored publications and productions are part of the curriculum and are not a public forum for general student use. Material appearing in such publications should reflect all areas of student interest. Controversial issues may be presented provided they are treated in depth and represent a variety of viewpoints. School-sponsored publications shall not contain:

- Statements or material demeaning or attacking any person because of race, color, gender, age, religion, national origin, or disability;
- Statements or material which endangers the health or safety of students;
- Statements or material which tend to create a hostile environment or otherwise disrupt the orderly operations of the school or violate the privacy rights of others;
- Statements or material which are libelous, profane, vulgar, or obscene;
- Statements or material that infringe on a copyright;
- Statements or material which advocate illegal acts of any kind, including the use of illegal drugs, drug paraphernalia, tobacco, vapor products, or alcohol, or that create a clear and present danger of the commission of unlawful actions or violation of school rules; and
- Statements or material that threatens or incites violence to property or persons.

School authorities may edit, delete, or otherwise restrict material which is inconsistent with this policy or that is inadequately researched, biased or prejudiced, or unsuited for the age of the intended school audience.

The Superintendent shall develop guidelines to implement these standards and shall establish procedures for the prompt review of any materials which appear not to comply with the standards.

Distribution and Posting of Materials

Distribution in school of written material that contains the following is prohibited:

- Statements or material demeaning or attacking any person because of race, color, gender, age, religion, national origin, or disability;
- Statements or material which endangers the health or safety of students;
- Statements or material which tend to create a hostile environment or otherwise disrupt the orderly operations of the school or violate the privacy rights of others;
- Statements or material which are libelous, profane, vulgar, or obscene;
- Statements or material that infringe on a copyright;
- Statements or material which advocate illegal acts of any kind, including the use of illegal drugs, drug paraphernalia, tobacco, vapor products, or alcohol, or that create a clear and present danger of the commission of unlawful actions or violation of school rules; and
- Statements or material that threatens or incites violence to property or persons.

Distribution in school includes distribution on school property or at school-related activities. Students who distribute such material or who write or publish such material for distribution are in violation of this policy and will be disciplined.

School-sponsored groups are permitted to distribute materials directly to students.

School-sponsored groups shall submit their materials to the building principal for approval prior to distribution to students. Materials must meet the standards for distribution of written material stated in this policy.

Student organizations not sponsored by the school may be permitted to display their materials on a centrally located bulletin board for posting materials and/or table available to outside groups for the displaying of materials. Materials requested to be displayed on a bulletin board or table must be submitted to the building principal for prior approval. Materials shall be submitted to the building principal within a reasonable time period prior to the distribution or display to ensure the material is appropriate and meets the standards for distribution of written material established in this policy. The District has the discretion to require that materials from student organizations not sponsored by the school contain the following disclaimer: "These materials are neither sponsored nor endorsed by the District, the Superintendent, or this school."

Policy History:

Adopted on: December 9, 2003

Revised at PN&P Committee on: September 29, 2010 and posted for Public Comment

Approved on: December 14, 2010

Revised at Regular Meeting on September 8, 2015 and posted for public comment.

Approved on: October 13, 2015

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Approved on: December 11, 2018