

Missoula County Public Schools

STUDENTS

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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, including topics about which there may be controversy and dissent.

Controversial issues may be presented provided they are treated in depth and represent a variety of viewpoints. Such materials may not be libelous, obscene, or profane nor may they cause a substantial disruption of the school, invade the privacy rights of others, demean any race, religion, gender, or ethnic group, or advocate the violation of the law. They may not advertise tobacco, liquor, illicit drugs or drug paraphernalia. School authorities may edit or delete material which is inconsistent with this policy.

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.

Non-School Sponsored Publications

Distribution in school of written material that is obscene, libelous, invades the privacy of others, will cause substantial disruption of the proper and orderly operation and discipline of the school or school activities, or advocates conduct otherwise inconsistent with shared values of a civilized social order is prohibited. 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 engage in gross disobedience and misconduct and will be disciplined in accordance with Board policy.

Distribution and Posting of Materials

To facilitate the distribution of materials with information about student activities, each school building may maintain a centrally located bulletin board for the posting of materials, and/or maintain a table available to groups for placing approved materials.

School-sponsored groups are permitted to distribute materials directly to students. Outside groups, including governmental agencies, parent and student organizations not sponsored by the school, and community organizations, may be permitted to display their materials on a centrally located bulletin board and/or table available for the displaying of materials. Materials to be distributed directly to students must be submitted to the Business Office for prior approval. The District may require that the group submit the materials within a reasonable time period prior to the distribution or display to ensure the material is appropriate.

The District has the discretion to require that materials from outside groups contain the following disclaimer: *“These materials are neither sponsored nor endorsed by the District, the Superintendent, or this school.”*

Cross Reference: 1700 Uniform Grievance Procedure

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