

STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

4.51

Student publications including, but not limited to, student newspapers, literary magazines, student broadcasts, productions, and yearbooks, are school-sponsored publications. These publications provide opportunities for students to learn and demonstrate academic, managerial, organizational, and creative skills, and are intended to be distributed to students at the school and individuals within the school community. Student publications shall not constitute a public forum for First Amendment purposes.

- I. Student publications shall be produced under the supervision of a faculty advisor. This advisor is responsible for developing students' skills in the area the publication serves.
- II. The school principal shall retain full editorial control over the style and content of all student publications and may remove content that is inconsistent with legitimate pedagogical interests of the school, including but not limited to, ensuring accuracy, maintaining professional standards of grammar and style, protecting the well-being and safety of students, avoiding material that is not age appropriate for the maturity level of the intended audience, or ensuring that the publication does not interfere with the school's basic educational mission. This decision must be viewpoint neutral and guided only by the legitimate pedagogical interests of the school, not a mere disagreement with the opinions expressed. If there is a disagreement between students and the school principal over publication of content, students are permitted to appeal the content decision to the appropriate District Level Chief who shall make the final decision. Prohibited content includes, but is not limited to, content which is:
 - a) Libelous, slanderous, defamatory, discriminatory, or harassing;
 - b) Reasonably likely to cause material and substantial disruption to school activities, pedagogical interests, students, the efficient operation of the school, or staff members or to the health and safety of students;
 - c) Violates copyright law, other State or Federal law, or School Board policy;
 - d) Obscene, profane, vulgar, lewd, sexual, or pornographic content;
 - e) Not age-appropriate for any students who receive the publication;
 - f) Constitutes an unwarranted invasion of privacy;
 - g) Incites, or is likely to incite, urges, or advocates violence, bullying, threats, or use of force.

- h) Threatens the school's, staff's, or student's security.
- III. School publications may accept and publish paid advertising with advance approval of the school principal.
- IV. All advertisements placed in student publications shall be subject to the same criteria outlined in Section II of this policy. The principal shall have full editorial control over all such advertisements. Additionally, no advertisements shall contain false, misleading, or deceptive content; or relate to an illegal activity. All such advertisements must not be inconsistent with state standards or Florida law. In no instance shall advertising or images include alcohol, tobacco, drugs, drug paraphernalia, weapons, or obscene, pornographic or illegal materials. All advertisements must be age-appropriate for the location that they will appear. Any such approval, granted for whatever cause or group, shall not be construed as an endorsement of any product, service, organization, or activity of said cause or group by the School, School Board, or Superintendent. The school principal for where the student publication will be produced shall be responsible for carefully reviewing each advertisement for consistency with these requirements.
- V. All appropriate School Board bookkeeping procedures will be followed as to all funds collected. All said funds shall be administered and accounted for in accordance with existing laws, Florida State Board of Education Administration Rules, and School Board policies.

STATUTORY AUTHORITY: 1001.41, 1001.42, F.S.

LAW(S) IMPLEMENTED: 1001.43, 1006.28, F.S.

HISTORY: ADOPTED: 8/21/01

REVISION DATE(S): 01/16/07, 04/02/19, 08/2024, 08/2025

FORMERLY: NEW

NOTES: