

## Instruction

### Publications

Student publications are important elements of the instructional program and contribute directly to the accomplishment of the school's goals. The CREC Council shall encourage the development of print or digital school newspapers, annuals, anthologies, and magazines.

The Council recognizes that students have rights to free expression in student publications. Consequently, student speech shall be limited in officially sponsored student publications only if there is a legitimate pedagogical reason to do so. The administration shall develop regulations to provide guidance on such legitimate pedagogical reasons.

Legal Reference:        *Eisner v Stamford Board of Education*, 440 F. 2d 803 (2nd Cir 1971)

*Trachtman v Anker*, 563 F. 2d 512 (2nd Cir. 1977) cert. denied, 435 U.S. 925 (1978)

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

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Revised:                March 15, 2023

CAPITOL REGION EDUCATION COUNCIL  
Hartford, Connecticut

## **Instruction**

### **Student Publications**

#### **Purposes of Official Student Publications**

1. To exist as an instructional device for the teaching of writing and other journalistic skills;
2. To provide a forum for opinions of students, school staff, and members of the community; and
3. To serve the entire school by reporting school activities.

#### **Rights of Student Journalists**

1. To print factual articles dealing with topics of interest to the student writers; and
2. To print, on the editorial page, opinions on any topic, whether school related or not, which students feel are of interest to themselves or to the readers.

#### **Responsibilities of Student Journalists**

1. To submit copy that conforms to good journalistic writing style;
2. To rewrite stories, as required by the journalism advisor, to improve journalistic structure, sentence structure, grammar, spelling and punctuation;
3. To check facts and verify quotes;
4. In the case of editorials on controversial issues, to provide space for rebuttals, in the same issue if possible, but otherwise no later than the following issue; and
5. To determine the contents of official student newspapers within specific limitations in these guidelines;

#### **Material Not Permitted in Official Student Publications**

1. Material which is libelous or which violates the rights of privacy;
2. Profanity, hereby defined as the language which would not be used in The Hartford Courant or the New York Times;
3. Material which criticizes or demeans any person's, race, religion, sex, ethnic group or disability;
4. Ads for cigarettes, liquor, or any other product not conducive to good health;

5. Any material, the publication of which would cause substantial disruption of the school. Substantial disruption is hereby defined as the threat of physical violence in the school or nearby community and/or the disruption of the school's educational program; and
6. Endorsements of political candidates or ballot measures, whether such endorsements are made via editorial, articles, letter, or photograph cartoon. The newspaper may, however, publish "fact sheet" types of articles on candidates and ballot measures, provided such articles do not endorse any person or position, and provided equal space is provided for all candidates for a particular office or both sides of a ballot measure.

### **Determination of Appropriateness**

The publication advisor shall have the primary responsibility of reviewing each article prior to its publication to determine if it satisfies all the conditions of these guidelines. The school Principal or designee other than the publication advisor may also review copy prior to its publication. No copy may be censored except for reasons specifically listed in these guidelines. Nothing in these guidelines is intended to allow censoring of any article merely because it is controversial or because it criticizes a particular school, a school procedure, or the school system itself.

### **Resolution of Differences**

In the event of disagreement as to whether an article should be printed, each school shall convene a publications Board, which shall meet within 48 hours to submit its opinion. The publications Board shall consist of the principal or designee; the journalism or publication advisor; the editor-in-chief; a representative from the student government; a parent from the advisory council; and other members as mutually agreed upon. If the publications Board cannot solve the dispute, then an appeal shall be made to the Executive Director who shall seek advice from the Board's legal counsel in making the decision. The Executive Director shall act on the appeal in a reasonable amount of time.

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