



STUDENTS

Freedom of Expression

The principal shall have the authority and responsibility to monitor student oral and written expression. Students who violate the standards established by [Policy 3220](#) and this procedure or [Chapter 28A.600 RCW](#) will be subject to corrective action.

The following guidelines will apply.

A. Student expression will be restricted:

1. Where there is evidence which reasonably supports a forecast that the expression is likely to cause material and substantial disruption of, or interference with, school activities, when disruption or interference cannot be prevented by reasonably available, less restrictive means; or
2. Where such expression unduly impinges upon the rights of others.

The forecast shall be based on specific facts, including past experience in the school and current events influencing student behavior, and not on undifferentiated fear or apprehension.

- B. Student expression will not be permitted if it would be in violation of the federal communications act or applicable federal communication commission rules or regulations, or otherwise in violation of district policies regarding lewd, vulgar, obscene, profane, and indecent conduct or communication.
- C. Libelous or slanderous student expression is prohibited. Libelous material shall be defined to include defamatory falsehoods about public figures or governmental officials. In order to be libelous, the defamatory falsehood must be made with actual malice; that is, with knowledge that it is false, or with reckless disregard of whether it was false or not.
- D. Student expression that involves an unwarranted invasion of privacy will not be permitted. Such occurrences may include: exploitation of one's personality; publications of one's private affairs with which the public has no legitimate concern; or, wrongful intrusion into one's private activities in a manner that may cause mental suffering, shame or humiliation to a reasonable person of ordinary sensibilities.
- E. Student expression that **advocates or** incites the commission of unlawful acts on school premises, the violation of law, or the violation of lawful district policies and procedures is prohibited.
- F. Student expression that constitutes discriminatory disparagement under [Chapter 28A.642](#) or violates the district's policy or procedure related to the prohibition of harassment, intimidation or bullying or nondiscrimination is discrimination or prohibited.

IN REVISION

3220P

Page 2 of 2

Locations and times for student expression or distribution of publications shall be predetermined by the principal at each school building so as to maintain order and safety on the school campus, to avoid interference with school operations, and to avoid obstructing the ingress to and egress from school facilities or school roadways. In the absence of such a designation, the locations will be at points of entry/exit of school buildings before or after the school day.

Cross references:

[Board Policy 3220](#)

[Board Policy 3221](#)

[Board Policy 3222](#)

Freedom of Expression

Student Publications

Distribution of Materials

Adopted: March 20, 1995

Updated: March 2001

Updated: December 2011

Revised: July 2018

Updated: August 2018

PROPOSED: October 2021