

Document Status: Draft Update

STUDENTS

7:310 Restrictions on Publications; Elementary Schools

Title has been updated. Original Title: Restrictions on Publications

School-Sponsored Publications and Web Sites [PRESSPlus1](#)

School-sponsored publications, productions, and web sites are part of the curriculum and are not a public forum for general use. School authorities may edit or delete material that is inconsistent with the District's educational mission. If the District opens up a forum for one viewpoint, the same opportunity will be provided for other viewpoints on the same topic and in the same medium.

All school-sponsored communications shall comply with the ethics and rules of responsible journalism. The author's name must accompany personal opinions and editorial statements. Text that is libelous, obscene, vulgar, lewd, invades the privacy of others, conflicts with the basic educational mission of the school, is socially inappropriate, is inappropriate due to the maturity of the students, or is or reasonably could be substantially or materially disruptive to the educational process or invasive of the rights of others will not be tolerated.

Non-School Sponsored Publications and Web Sites Distributed and/or Accessed On-Campus

For purposes of this section and the following section, a *publication* includes, without limitation: (1) written or electronic print material, (2) audio-visual material on any medium including electromagnetic media (e.g., images, MP3 files, flash memory, etc.), or combinations of these whether off-line (e.g., a printed book, CD-ROM, etc.) or online (e.g., any website, social networking site, database for information retrieval, etc.), or (3) information or material on electronic devices (e.g., data or voice messages delivered by cell phones, tablets, and other hand-held devices).

Students may only create, distribute and/or access non-school sponsored publications in a manner that will not cause or reasonably be foreseen to cause a substantial disruption of or material interference with the educational environment or invasion of the rights of others (e.g., material that is libelous, invades privacy rights or infringes on intellectual property rights). The Superintendent or his/her designee will set forth the time, manner and place in which students may create, distribute and/or access non-school sponsored publications at school and school-related events, and students must comply with these limitations about which they know or should have known.

Any creation, distribution and/or access of a non-school sponsored publication that leads to the following are presumed to cause or reasonably be foreseen to cause a substantial disruption of or material interference with the educational environment or invasion of the rights of others:

1. Any non-school sponsored publication or creation, distribution or access of such that creates the perception that the publication or access or distribution thereof is endorsed by the School District;
2. Any non-school sponsored publication or creation, distribution or access of such that is socially inappropriate due to maturity level of the students, including but not limited to material that is obscene, pornographic, or pervasively lewd and vulgar, contains indecent and vulgar language, or *sexting* as defined by School Board policy and Student Handbooks
3. Any non-school sponsored publication or creation, distribution or access of such that is libelous, invades the privacy of others, or infringes on a copyright; and
4. Any non-school sponsored publication or creation, distribution or access of such that is reasonably viewed as promoting illegal activity, including illegal drug use.

Non-School Sponsored Publications Accessed or Distributed Off-Campus

A student engages in gross disobedience and misconduct and may be disciplined for creating and/or distributing any publication that causes or reasonably can be foreseen to cause a substantial disruption of or material interference with the educational environment or invasion of the rights of others.

Bullying and Cyberbullying

The Superintendent or designee shall treat behavior that is *bullying* and/or *cyberbullying* according to Board policy 7:180, *Prevention of and Response to Bullying, Intimidation, and Harassment*, in addition to any response required by this policy.

LEGAL REF.:

105 ILCS 5/27-23.7

7:310

Hazelwood v. Kuhlmeier, 108 S.Ct. 562 (1988).

Hedges v. Wauconda Community Unit School Dist. No. 118, 9 F.3d 1295 (7th Cir. 1993).

Tinker v. Des Moines Indep. Cmty. Sch. Dist., 89 S.Ct. 733 (1969).

CROSS REF.: 6:235 (Access to Electronic Networks), 7:180 (Prevention of and Response to Bullying, Intimidation, and Harassment), 8:25 (Advertising and Distributing Materials in School Provided by Non-School Related Entities)

ADOPTED: August 25, 2016

PRESSPlus Comments

PRESSPlus 1. High School districts should **DELETE** this policy and adopt **NEW** policy 7:315, *Restrictions on Publications; High Schools*.

This policy is **RENAMED** to restrict it to elementary students in response to the Speech Rights of Student Journalists Act, 105 ILCS 80/1, added by P.A. 99-678, which applies to high school students only.

Issue 93, October 2016