

Freedom of Speech/Expression

The Board of Education supports the dissemination and discussion of diverse points of view. The Bethany Public School District (District) shall recognize and protect the rights of student expression. It will balance these rights with the interests of an orderly and efficient educational process and of a school environment suitable for healthy growth and development of all students.

School administration have the right to prevent distribution of items that would disrupt the educational process and to regulate the time, place and manner of distributing written material so as to maintain the appropriate educational atmosphere.

Printed material produced or distributed on District property shall be noncommercial, bear the names of at least two (2) students principally involved in the promotion of this material, and, when applicable, the name of the sponsoring organization or group.

Printed material produced or distributed on school District property shall not:

1. contain libelous or obscene language;
2. advocate illegal actions;
3. contain false statements or innuendos that would subject any person to hatred, ridicule, contempt, or injury to reputation;
4. threaten imminent disruption of the school's educational process;
5. advocate actions which would endanger student health or safety;
6. invade the lawful rights of others;
7. be sold on school property nor can material which solicits funds or donation be circulated.

Distributors of materials will be held responsible for cleaning up litter caused by such distribution.

Legal References: Civil Rights Act of 1964, Title VII, 42 U.S.C. 2000-e2(a)
 Equal Employment Opportunity Commission Policy Guidance (N-915.035)
 Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, 34 CFR § 106
 Meritor Savings Bank. FSB v. Vinson, 477 U.S. 57 (1986)
 Faragher v. City of Boca Raton, No. 97-282 (U.S. Supreme Court, June 26, 1998)
 Burlington Industries, Inc. v. Ellerth, No. 97-569, (U.S. Supreme Court, June 26, 1998)
 Gebbs v. Lago Vista Indiana School District, No. 99-1866, (U.S. Supreme Court, June 26, 1998)
 Connecticut General Statutes § 46a-60
 Constitution of the State of Connecticut, Article I, § 20

Policy adopted: September 9, 1991
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