

Van Buren County Board of Education

Monitoring: Review: Annually, in May	Descriptor Term: Student Publications	Descriptor Code: 6.704	Issued Date: 06/17/99
		Rescinds:	Issued:

STUDENT RIGHTS

The student shall be allowed to responsibly express himself/herself and to disseminate his/her views in writing.¹

Any student may submit articles and editorials for school-sponsored publications. The procedure for submission of materials shall be published and distributed to all students.

STANDARDS

School-sponsored publications shall adhere to commonly accepted community standards, and no printed material may be distributed which:

1. Is obscene³
2. Is libelous⁴
3. May create a material and substantial disruption of the normal school activity or appropriate discipline in the school.

CONTROL AND SUPERVISION

Student publications shall be under the control of the principal. Each school shall have a faculty sponsor who reviews all publications proposed to be distributed in the school by a student or school group.²

DISTRIBUTION

School authorities shall regulate the time, manner, place and duration for the distribution of publications on school grounds.

As it pertains to the school, distribution shall be defined as any manner of disseminating written or printed materials equally, systematically or merely at random to several or many persons on school grounds.

APPEALS

If a request for distributing any portion of a student publication is denied by the faculty sponsor, the decision may be appealed to the principal, then to the director of schools, and ultimately to the Board.

Legal References:

1. U.S. Constitution, First Amendment
2. Tinker v. Des Moines Independent Community District, 393 U.S. 503 (1969)
3. Sharley v. Northwest Ind. School District, 462 F. 2d 960, 970-71, 5th Cir., 1971
4. Schwartz v. Schuker, 298 F. Supp. 238, 242 (D.C.N.Y. 1969)

Cross References:

- Use of Copyrighted Materials 4.404
- Use of the Internet 4.406
- Web Pages 4.407
- Controversial Issues 4.800