

STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

I. School-Sponsored Publications

Definition of Official School Publications

Official school publications such as newspapers, yearbooks, and literary magazines may be prepared in regularly scheduled classes and are components of the curriculum approved by the School Board. These publications are not intended to provide a public forum for students or the general public. In all instances related to these publications, the School Board will be the publisher, the principal will be the editor, the faculty sponsor will be co-editor, and students appointed by the co-editor may serve as assistant editors and journalists.

Responsibilities of Student Editors and Journalists

Students are entitled to express their personal opinions in writing. The distribution of such material may not interfere with or disrupt the educational process. These written expressions must be signed by the author.

Student editors and journalists shall be responsible for preparing and writing factual material that is not obscene, defamatory, or an invasion of privacy or that

- is reasonably foreseeable to lead to the substantial disruption of school activities or to endanger the health or safety of students or staff;
- which advocates the commission of an unlawful act or the violation of a lawful school policy or regulation;
- which advertises or advocates illegal products or services; or
- which advocates prejudice, hatred, violence, or harassment on the basis of protected classes as outlined in Albemarle County School Board Policies GB, *Equal Employment Opportunity* and JB, *Equal Educational Opportunities*.

Students who edit, publish or distribute hand-written, printed, or duplicated matter among their fellow students within the schools must assume responsibility for the content of these publications.

Responsibilities of Student Publications Faculty Co-Editor

School publications faculty co-editors shall instruct students in the Code of Ethics of the American Society of Newspaper Editors and help students to understand and follow it. Faculty members shall instruct students in correct and appropriate journalistic techniques and consult with the principal, who is the editor, on material that may violate the law or the journalism Code of Ethics. Material that may be considered controversial by some members of the school community should be carefully considered by students and the faculty editor, and brought to the attention of the principal (editor).

Responsibilities of the School Principal (Editor)

The school principal is responsible for approving all publications in accordance with School Board policy and his/her judgment and discretion.

II. Non-School-Sponsored Publications

The unauthorized sale and/or distribution of non-school-sponsored publications by non-students will not be permitted on school property at any time. The sale of non-school-sponsored student newspapers published by students of the school division may be sold or distributed only at times and places as the school authorities designate.

Adopted: July 1, 1993
Revised: January 22, 2015; January 28, 2016
Reviewed: November 20, 2003

Legal Refs: Hazelwood School Dist. v. Kuhlmeier, 484 U.S. 261, 108 S. Ct. 562. 98 L.ED.2d 592 (1988)

Cross Refs: AC, Nondiscrimination
GB, Equal Employment Opportunity/Nondiscrimination
JB, Equal Employment Opportunity/Nondiscrimination
JFHA/GBA, Prohibition Against Harassment and Retaliation