

I-17 SCHOOL PUBLICATIONS

School publications will include newspapers, yearbooks, and literary magazines that are prepared in regularly scheduled classes or by approved co-curricular organizations and supervised by a faculty adviser. Student articles may be edited, revised, or deleted by the school principal based on legitimate or reasonable educational/pedagogical concern. The school principal is responsible for informing the journalism advisor about the legal requirements affecting student publications.

Students must refrain from publishing material that:

1. is obscene
2. is libelous/slanderous
3. creates a clear and present danger of disruption of the school
4. is an invasion of privacy
5. advertises illegal products or services

School publications are designed to serve as a vehicle for instruction and are, in addition, a means of communication. A school publication can best function when it provides a full opportunity for students to inquire, question, and exchange ideas. Student publications serve several functions, the most fundamental of which is to instruct students in the basic skills of responsible journalism within the school setting.

1. All publications must have a faculty adviser/sponsor approved by a principal.
2. Faculty advisers will monitor style, grammar, format, and appropriateness of materials. Student journalists must act responsibly to maintain the highest journalistic standards. It is the advisor's responsibility to ensure that the standards are adhered to by the students.
3. All students, regardless of race or socio-economic level, should have equal opportunity to participate in journalism programs.
4. Such publications must carry a statement identifying the editorial staff and all articles must be signed with the proper name of the writer.

Material which is libelous or obscene according to popular legal definition or which would pose a real and substantial threat to the school's educational program or which is vulgar by community standards shall not be published.

When a publication advisor becomes aware that the contemplated content of an article for one of these publications may violate the provisions of the previous paragraph, the advisor shall consult with the building principal. The principal may form an advisory committee consisting of staff members to assist the journalism advisor, when needed, to evaluate articles that may be of a questionable nature.

Student journalists should cover all aspects of a topic accurately and treat sources fairly and with respect.

SOURCE: Plainfield Community School Corporation
Plainfield, IN

ADOPTED: 06/12/79

REVISED: 03/22/90, 07/06/04, 03/12/09