

## **Students**

### **Freedom of Speech/Expression**

#### **Publications and Distribution of Printed and Written Material by Students on School Grounds During School Hours**

Responsible criticism and reasonable dissent are basic to the free expression of ideas. No idea will be suppressed simply because it is not shared by the majority. However, expressions which involve false statements, disruptive or potentially dangerous content, the use of obscenities, and advocacy of violation of law or official school regulations are unacceptable.

##### **1. Publications**

The Lancelot (WHS) and Cougar Courier (Clark Lane) shall be recognized as the official school newspapers and the Excalibur shall be recognized as the official school yearbook. Faculty advisors shall be appointed to supervise the publication of the newspapers and the yearbook. Any students who wish to publish and distribute other printed and written material on school grounds shall comply with this policy and administrative regulations.

##### **2. Distribution of all Printed and Written Materials**

Any person wishing to publish and distribute any printed or written material on school grounds or in any school buildings will require prior approval by the Superintendent of Schools.

Substantial disruption of the educational process, unreasonable interference with the operation of a school or interference with or invasion of the rights of others may be evidenced by, among other things, the following:

- a. Reduction in student attendance at assigned classes or activities.
- b. An atmosphere within the school or on school grounds which distracts students from regular school tasks.
- c. Interference with or disruption of school schedules, events, activities or violation of any rule or regulation promulgated by the Board of Education or by the administration.

Under no circumstances will material considered to be obscene, as that term is defined in State and Federal Criminal Statutes, or libelous as that term is defined by law, be distributed on school property or in school buildings within the jurisdiction of the Board of Education.

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(cf. 6145.3 - Publications)

Legal Reference: *Tinker vs. Des Moines Independent Community School District*, 393 U.S., 503 (1969)

*Grayned vs. City of Rockford*, 408 U.S. 104 (1972)

Amendment to U.S. Constitution - Article 1

Connecticut Constitution, ARTICLE FIRST, Declaration of Rights, Sections 4, 5

Academic Freedom Policy (adopted by Connecticut State Board of Education, 9/09/81)

Policy adopted: October 16, 2003

WATERFORD PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
Waterford, Connecticut