

DISTRICT RULES REGARDING STUDENT RIGHTS

In addition to other rights established by law, each student served by or on behalf of the District shall possess the following substantive rights, and the District will not limit these rights except for good and sufficient cause.

Freedom of Speech and Assembly

- a) Students are entitled to express orally their personal opinions. Such expression may not interfere with the rights of others. The use of obscenities or personal attacks is prohibited.
- b) All student meetings in school buildings or on school grounds may function only as a part of the formal educational process or as authorized by the principal or District policy.
- c) Students have the freedom to assemble peacefully. There is an appropriate time and place for the expression of opinions and beliefs. Conducting demonstrations which interfere with the operation of the school or classroom is inappropriate and prohibited.

Freedom to Publish

Students are entitled to express in writing their personal opinions. The distribution of such material may not interfere with or disrupt the educational process or infringe upon the rights of other individuals and/or groups. Such written expressions must be signed by the authors.

Students who edit, publish or distribute within the schools handwritten, printed or duplicated material, including electronic distribution, which has not been authorized by or produced under the supervision of school personnel must assume the responsibility for the content of such publications.

Students who edit, publish or distribute handwritten, printed or duplicated material, including electronic distribution, which has been authorized by and approved by school personnel will be subject to the reasonable rules and regulations governing such materials.

Student publications produced as part of the school's curriculum or with the support of the associated student body fund are intended to serve both as vehicles for instruction and student communication. Controversial issues may be presented provided that they are treated in depth and represent a variety of viewpoints. Materials may not: be libelous, obscene or profane; cause a substantial disruption of the school; invade the privacy of others; personally attack others; demean any race, religion, sex, or ethnic group; or advocate the violation of the law or advertise tobacco products, liquor, illicit drugs, or drug paraphernalia. The judgment of school personnel will be followed in the determination of whether proposed materials would be libelous or obscene or would constitute personal attack.

Unauthorized sale or solicitation in connection with commercial publications will not be permitted on school property.

Right of Privacy

The schools must respect students' right of privacy; at the same time, school authorities must protect the health and safety of all students and promote the effective operation of the schools.

At age eighteen students become legal adults and must approve any disclosure of information about themselves from school records, except directory information if a request for confidentiality has not been filed. Students between sixteen and eighteen who have been granted legal emancipation from their parents or guardians have the same rights as eighteen-year-old students. Students thirteen years and older have confidentiality rights in records regarding drug, alcohol or mental health treatment. All students have confidentiality rights in family planning or abortion records.

The following guidelines shall be observed to assure optimum privacy of individuals and the safety and welfare of all students.

- a) A student will be free from searches by school officials of his/her clothing and other personal property unless there is reasonable cause to believe that something is concealed that may be of immediate danger to the student or to other students. School officials may request a student to remove all items from pockets or other personal effects. Failing compliance by the student and in the absence of immediate danger, school officials will refrain from searches and will call in the parents or, in the case of possible criminal activity, the police.
- b) Student lockers remain the property of the District and school officials have the right, authority and responsibility to inspect lockers. However, school authorities will inspect student lockers in the absence of students only when:
 - i. it occurs as part of a general inspection of all lockers for the purpose of returning school property, such as library books. In such cases the personal belongings of students within lockers will not be searched; or
 - ii. school authorities have reasonable cause to believe that conditions or circumstances exist which threaten the health or safety of those in the school.
- c) When school authorities have reasonable cause to believe items which violate school rules or the law are concealed within a school locker, they may inspect the locker. Such inspection will be made in the presence of the student. If the student refuses to reveal the contents of his/her personal belongings within the locker, his/her parents will be called. If the student cannot be located and if there is reason to believe a danger may exist, school officials, police or other authorities may search the locker.

Discipline Defined

"Discipline" means all forms of correction other than suspension and expulsion, and includes the exclusion of a student from a class by a teacher or administrator for a period of time not to exceed the balance of the immediate class, provided that the student is in the custody of a District employee for the balance of such period. Discipline also means the exclusion of a student from any other type of activity conducted by or on behalf of the District.

No form of discipline will be administered in such a manner as to prevent a student from accomplishing specific academic grade, subject or graduation requirements. A student's academic grade or credit in a particular subject or course may be adversely affected by reason of tardiness or absences only to the extent and upon the basis that:

- 1) The student's attendance and/or participation is related to the instructional objectives or goals of the particular subject or course; and
- 2) The student's attendance and/or participation has been identified by the teacher pursuant to policy of the District as a basis for grading, in whole or in part, in the particular subject or course.