

372 STUDENT PUBLICATIONS AND PRODUCTIONS

The Williams Bay School District may sponsor student publications and productions as a means for students to learn, under adult direction, the rights and responsibilities of the press in a free society. The District's sponsored student publications and productions are not meant to be utilized by the public indiscriminately and are not to be considered a forum for public expression.

For purposes of this policy, "publications: shall include any audio, electronic, visual, or written materials such as tapes, banners, films, pamphlets, notices, newspapers, books, web pages, or other like materials. "Productions" shall include theatrical performances as well as impromptu dramatic presentations.

Such publications and productions also play a vital role in the school program by:

- Communicating to those who are actively interested in the school.
- Providing a vehicle for the expression of students' thoughts.
- Creating a wholesome school spirit.
- Supporting the best traditions of the school.
- Providing training and purposeful writing, speaking, artwork, photography, and layout.
- Creating a desire for the best forms of journalism or theatrical production.

In sponsoring a student publication or production, the Board is mindful of the fact that the publication could be available to any student attending this school, and must, therefore, generally be suitable for all students.

The Board reserves the right to designate and prohibit the distribution of publications and productions that are not protected by the right of free expression because they violate the rights of others. The following guidelines will be applicable:

- The ethics of responsible journalism and excellence in writing/speaking will determine what will be produced.
- Students shall have the right to express their views and attitudes on moral issues with the provision that the tenor and statement shall not encourage disruption of the normal education process.
- Language, pictures, music, and symbols shall not be obscene, libelous, or offensive to good taste.

- Constructive criticism of the schools, the district, or other institutions and/or social group or practices is encouraged.
- School publications or productions shall not endorse any candidate for public office or take a political stance on any issue.
- Advertisement is prohibited without the exclusive permission of the administration and the school board.
- All materials to be printed or produced are subject to the review by the advisor and the principal.
- Those who are denied approval for inclusion of materials in school publications and productions may appeal to the District Administrator, whose decision is final.

LEGAL REFERENCE: Wisconsin Statutes, Sections 118.001, 120.12(2), 120.13

APPROVED: January 13, 2003

REVISED: July 10, 2017

February 22, 2021