

Students

Series 500

Policy Title School Publications

Code No. 504.3

Students may produce official school publications as part of the curriculum under the supervision of a faculty advisor and the principal. Official school publications include material produced in the journalism, newspaper, yearbook, or writing classes and distributed to the student body either free or for a fee.

Students of the Marshalltown Community School District are protected in their exercise of freedom of expression by the First Amendment to the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution of the State of Iowa. Understanding the meaning of the First Amendment's protection of free speech is an important part of the learning process, and school is an appropriate place for inquiry and learning through the expression and exchange of ideas. Student expression in official school publications is specifically defined and protected under Iowa law.

It is the policy of the Marshalltown Community School District that all official school publications shall be free from prior restraint by school officials except as provided by law. An editorial board comprising participating students under the supervision of publication advisers shall be responsible for the content of official student publications. The editorial board shall be guided by the Iowa Code and by ethical standards adopted by professional associations or societies of journalism. All publications shall provide students a full opportunity for the exchange of ideas and robust debate about topics of student interest, including those that may be controversial. Student expression in official school publications is not an expression of school policy. Public school districts and employees or officials are not liable in any civil or criminal

action for any student expression made or published by students, unless the school employees or officials have interfered with or altered the content of the student's speech or expression, and then only to the extent of the interference or alteration of that speech or expression.

Schools possess a substantial educational interest in teaching student writers journalistic skills. Journalism advisers shall supervise student writers to maintain professional standards of English and journalism and to comply with Iowa law including the restrictions against unlawful speech in Iowa Code section 280.22.

It is the policy of the Marshalltown Community School District to encourage the resolution of complaints arising from the application of this policy through an appeal process.

The administration is directed to develop procedures describing time, place, and manner of restrictions respecting official student publications in accordance with the Constitution and laws of the United States and the State of Iowa. This policy and its accompanying procedures shall be made available to all students.

Adopted: Fall, 1969

Reviewed: February 17, 2014

Amended: December 11, 1989
March 23, 1992
February 16, 2009
March 3, 2014
March 5, 2018

Legal Reference: (Code of Iowa) Chapter 280.22 (2013)
Hazelwood School Dist. v. Kuhlmeier, 1805.Ct. 562 (1988)
Bystrom v. Fridley High School, 822 F.2d 747 (8th Cir. 1987)

Cross Reference: 502 - Student Rights & Responsibilities
504- Student Activities