

Santa Barbara Unified School District

Administrative Regulation

Students

AR 5145.2

FREEDOM OF SPEECH/EXPRESSION

School-Sponsored Publications

Students shall have the right to exercise freedom of speech and of the press in official school publications, except for expression that is obscene, libelous, slanderous, so incites students as to create a clear and present danger of the commission of unlawful acts on school premises, or violates professional standards of journalism. (Education Code 48907)

Official school publications includes materials produced by students in the journalism, newspaper, and yearbook courses and distributed to the student body either free or for a fee and to all forms of school-sponsored publications and communications, including student literary magazines; audio, visual, and electronic school broadcasts; and social media. (Education Code 48907)

All student submissions shall be held to professional standards of English and journalism. (Education Code 48907)

Distribution of Printed Materials and Petitions by Students

The principal or designee may provide bulletin boards on which students and student organizations may post materials of general interest. Students also may post or distribute handbills, leaflets, and other printed material, whether produced within or outside of the school. Students may collect signatures on petitions concerning school or nonschool issues.

(cf. 1325 - Advertising and Promotion)

(cf. 6145.5 - Student Organizations and Equal Access)

Printed materials or petitions may be distributed only:

1. Before or after school or during lunch time
2. In locations that do not obstruct the normal flow of traffic within the school or at entrances

No student shall use coercion to induce any other student or person to accept printed matter or to sign a petition. No funds shall be collected for any material distributed.

(cf. 5131 - Conduct)

Clothing, Buttons, and Badges

Buttons, badges, armbands, and clothing bearing slogans or sayings may be worn unless their message falls into the categories prohibited by law and Board policy. No employee shall interfere with this practice on the grounds that the message may be controversial or unpopular with students or faculty.

(cf. 5131.4 - Student Disturbances)

(cf. 5132 - Dress and Grooming)

(cf. 5136 - Gangs)

(cf. 5144 - Discipline)

SANTA BARBARA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

Santa Barbara, California

February 10, 2009; April 26, 2011