

Campbell Union ESD

Board Policy

Freedom Of Speech/Expression

BP 5145.2

Students

Free inquiry and exchange of ideas are essential parts of a democratic education. The Governing Board respects students' rights to express ideas and opinions, take stands, and support causes, even when such speech is controversial or unpopular.

(cf. 6142.3- Civic Education)

(cf. 6144- Controversial Issues)

On-Campus Expression

Students shall have the right to exercise freedom of speech and of the press including, but not limited to, the use of bulletin boards; the distribution of printed materials or petitions; the wearing of buttons, badges and other insignia; and the right of expression in official publications. (Education Code 48907)

Student expression on district or school Internet web sites and on-line media shall be afforded the same protections as in print media.

(cf. 1113 - District and School Web Sites)

(cf. 6163.4)- Student Use of Technology)

(cf. 5137 - Positive School Climate)

(cf. 5144 - Discipline)

Students' freedom of expression shall be limited only as allowed by Education Code 48907, 48950, other applicable state, and federal laws.

Students are prohibited from making any expressions, distributing, or posting any materials that are obscene, libelous, or slanderous. Students also are prohibited from making any expressions that so incites students as to create a clear and present danger of the commission of unlawful acts on school premises, the violation of school rules, or substantial disruption of the school's orderly operation. (Education Code 48907)

(cf. 5145.7- Sexual Harassment)

(cf. 5145.9- Hate Motivated Behavior)

The use of "fighting words" or epithets is prohibited in those instances where the speech is abusive and insulting, rather than a communication of ideas, and the speech is used in an abusive manner in a situation that presents an actual danger that it will cause a breach of the peace.

School officials shall not engage in prior restraint of material prepared for official school publications except insofar as the content of the materials violates the law. (Education Code 48907)

Off-Campus Expression

A student shall be subject to discipline for off-campus expression, including expression on off-campus Internet web sites, when such expression poses a threat to the safety of other students, staff, or school property, or substantially disrupts the educational program. The superintendent shall document the impact the expression had or could be expected to have on the school program.

(cf. 5131- Conduct)

The Superintendent or designee shall ensure that due process is followed when resolving disputes regarding student freedom of expression.

Legal Reference:

EDUCATION CODE

48907 Exercise of free expression; rules and regulations

48950 Speech and other communication

51520 Prohibited solicitations on school premises

UNITED STATES CODE, TITLE 20

4071-4074 Equal Access Act

CALIFORNIA CONSTITUTION

Article 1, Section 2 Freedom of speech and expression

U.S. CONSTITUTION

Amendment 1 Freedom of speech and expression

COURT DECISIONS

Smith v. Novato Unified School District, (2007) 150 Cal.App.4th 1439

Lavine v. Blaine School District, (2001) 257 F.3d 981

Emmett v. Kirkland School District No. 415, (2000) 92 F.Supp. 2d 1088

J.S. v. Bethlehem Area School District, (2000) 757 A.2d 412 (Pa. Commw. 2000)

Beussink v. Woodland R-IV School District, (1998) 30 F.Supp. 2d 1175

Muller v. Jefferson Lighthouse School, (1996) 98 F.3d 1530

Lovell v. Poway Unified School District, (1996) 90 F.3d 367

Hazelwood School District v. Kuhlmeier, (1988) 108 S. Ct. 562

Leeb v. DeLong, (1988) 198 Cal.App.3d 47

Bethel School District No. 403 v. Fraser, (1986) 478 U.S. 675

Bright v. Los Angeles Unified School District, (1976) 18 Cal. 3d 350

Tinker v. Des Moines Independent Community School District, (1969) 393 U.S. 503

Management Resources:

CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION LEGAL ADVISORIES

Limitations on Student Expression in School-Sponsored Publications, March 4, 1988

WEB SITES

CSBA: <http://www.csba.org>

California Department of Education: <http://www.cde.ca.gov>

Policy CAMPBELL UNION SCHOOL DISTRICT

adopted: December 17, 1998 Campbell, California

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