

## Section 300: Instruction

### Student Publications

Code #372.00

In the Tri-County Area School District, student publications shall serve as educational tools, as media for reporting school events, as means of expression for students and the public, as forums for discourse on issues, and as sources of entertainment and enlightenment.

Freedom of Expression: The Board of Education upholds and encourages freedom of the press as guaranteed by the First Amendment of the Constitution of the United States. The Board stipulates that student publications not be subjected to prior restraints or censorship except to require that legal responsibilities be met and that the orderly operation of the school not be impaired.

Responsibilities: Student authors and editors are responsible for the quality and content of student publications. They shall refrain from publication of material which is libelous, defaming, or obscene according to current legal definitions, which substantially disrupt or materially interfere with school activities, or intrude into the school affairs or the lives of others, or which creates a clear and present danger of immediate and substantial disruption of the school. They shall use the highest journalistic standards and shall consider community norms, public reactions, and reflection on the school system in making decisions on publication. It is recommended that high school student editors and staff authors take at least one semester of journalism before or during their terms on the staff.

Controversial Subjects: The Board of Education recognizes that treatment of controversial issues and subjects is essential to free expression and education. Opportunity for factual reporting, for expression of divergent viewpoints and editorials shall be provided. Reasonable provisions shall be made for those disagreeing with a published viewpoint to have their viewpoints published.

Advisors: The administration shall appoint qualified individuals as advisors for student publications. Advisors shall teach students to publish with accuracy, insight, fairness, responsibility and good form and style. They shall advise students on journalistic standards, on public relations and on treatment of controversial material. They shall inform principals when potentially controversial materials are pending publication.

Legal Reference: Wisconsin Constitution, Article I - Section 3

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