

# POLICY

## EAST WINDSOR BOARD OF EDUCATION

PROGRAM

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SCHOOL SPONSORED PUBLICATIONS

### 2432 SCHOOL SPONSORED PUBLICATIONS

The Board of Education sponsors pupil publications as important elements of the instructional program. Pupils are encouraged to develop the skills of written and verbal communication and to exercise the right to express their opinions freely and responsibly within the limited school forum of yearbooks, student newspapers, student video productions, website designs, literary magazines and musical and theatrical presentations.

The rights of free speech, and free expression of pupils in public schools pursuant to the First Amendment, are not automatically coextensive with the rights of adults in other settings and shall be applied in light of the special characteristics of the school environment. Therefore, the Board of Education reserves the right to exercise prepublication supervision over student publications that are distributed in the schools.

#### School Sponsored/Authorized Publications

The school Principal or his/her designee will exercise pre-publication supervision over school-sponsored publications. Pupil expression may be restricted when censorship action is reasonably related to legitimate educational concerns and the pupil expression if not restricted would undermine or disrupt the basic educational activities of the school, interfere with educational continuity of instruction, subject the Board to legal action for copyright infringement or libel, is obscene or inappropriate for a specific age group or is inconsistent with the district's stated educational goals.

#### Unauthorized Publications

Student publications produced without school sponsorship/approval of authorized school advisors may be distributed in the schools or on school property provided they bear the name of the sponsoring organization or individual, a copy is provided to the school Principal or his/her designee and that such material is not reasonably believed to be disruptive to the educational process.

Disruptive content includes but is not limited to that which:



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1. Advocates the use of force;
2. Urges the violation of law or school regulation;
3. Incites strong emotional reactions or violence through libelous, biased or prejudiced statements about an individual or group;
4. Advocates the use of or advertises the availability of any substance or material which may constitute a direct and substantial danger to the health of pupils.

For purposes of this policy, "publication" shall include written or printed matter such as newspapers, magazines, articles, brochures, pamphlets, leaflets, handbills, posters, labels, buttons, or audio or video publications or other media for communicating with pupils, school personnel or the general public which are distributed or posted on school property, placed electronically on or disseminated through school owned or controlled equipment of any kind.

Students who violate this policy will be subject to disciplinary action.

N.J.S.A. 2C:34-3;  
N.J.S.A. 18A:42-4

Adopted: 22 November 2004

