

PUBLICATIONS CODE**I. Official Publications**

This regulation governs the publication of official school publications. "Official school publications" shall include newspapers, yearbooks, bulletin boards, literary magazines, or other publications and media which:

1. are prepared by students in journalism, newspaper, yearbook, ~~or~~ writing classes, or other curricular or co-curricular programs;
2. are supervised by a faculty adviser appointed by the school administration;
3. are financed through the use of student body and/or District funds, subscriptions sold on campus, or advertising sold in the community in the name of a school; and
4. are distributed to the student body members either free or for a fee.

II. The Purposes of School Publications

Schools are authorized to establish official school publications:

1. to inform the entire school community by reporting on activities, individuals, events, and/or analyzing issues of interest;
2. to provide a forum for the opinions of students and school staff members;
3. to provide an instructional device for the teaching of writing skills for a variety of journalistic purposes;
4. to provide an opportunity for creative expression through artistic and literary means; and
5. to teach journalistic practices, ethics, and professional standards as adopted by the Society of Professional Journalists (SPJ Code of Ethics).

III. Adviser's Responsibility

It shall be the adviser's responsibility:

1. to supervise the production of the student publications;
2. to teach and maintain professional standards of English and journalism (as specified by Journalism Education Association (JEA) and Standards for Journalism Educators);

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3. to review materials for publication in accordance with, and upholding the provisions of, this policy;
4. to maintain the provisions of Section 48907 of the State Education Code and the policies and regulations of the Fullerton Joint Union High School District;
5. to maintain a sound financial program;
6. to obtain effective evaluation of the publications from other resources including other advisers, rating services, editors, or professional journalists so that needed improvements can be understood and made; and
7. to establish and obtain a contractual agreement with students concerning their conduct and expectations as student journalists.

IV. Students' Rights to Freedom of the Press

Subject to the specific limitations in Board policies and/or regulations, student editors are responsible for determining the content of their publications. They shall have the right under United States and California law and under this code:

1. to print news and feature articles dealing with topics of interest to student readers;
2. to print, on the editorial page, opinions on topics, whether school-related or not, which they feel are of interest;
3. to provide students, in addition to the publication's staff, a "Right-to-Reply" to articles and editorials; and
4. to have access, within the law and according to proper procedure, to public records and documents held by the school.

V. Responsibilities of Student Journalists

As a student journalist, it is the student journalist's duty to seek the truth and provide a fair and comprehensive account of events and issues. The student journalist will uphold integrity and honesty by seeking truth and reporting it, minimizing harm, acting independently, and accepting accountability for his/her actions. The student journalist will abide by the Society of Professional Journalists' Code of Ethics and District AR 6565.

Student journalists involved with student publications such as the yearbook, the school newspaper, and school Web sites shall sign and adhere to the Contract for Student Journalist.

Student journalists shall:

1. submit copy that conforms to good journalistic writing style;

2. verify facts and quotes;
3. rewrite stores as required by editors or the adviser for accuracy, to improve journalistic structure, sentence structure, grammar, style, or mechanics;
4. treat controversial issues in a fair and ethical manner;
5. provide space for rebuttals, in the same issue if possible, but otherwise no later than the following issue;
6. maintain professional standards of English and journalism in the selection and writing of stories;
7. meet deadlines;
8. produce a publication which meets professional standards of journalism.
9. abide by the Contract for Student Journalist.

VI. Prohibited Materials

The school publication shall operate under the United States and California Constitutions, guaranteeing to each student in the District his/her individual freedom of expression. However, student journalists have an obligation to adhere to established professional standards of journalism as defined in those codes adopted by Sigma Delta Chi Foundation, and the Society of Professional Journalists. Thus, material occurring in writing, photography, or caricature constituting one or more of the following may be withheld from publication if it:

1. is obscene to minors according to current legal definitions;
2. is libelous or slanderous according to current legal definitions;
3. so incites students as to create a "clear and present danger" of the commission of unlawful acts on school premises or the violation of lawful District and/or school regulations, or the substantial disruption of the orderly operation of school.
4. invades privacy or discloses information or records which are confidential by law or District regulation.

VII. Resolution of Differences

The publication's faculty adviser shall review all material scheduled for publication for suitability in accordance with this regulation. Whenever it is proposed to refuse the publication of certain material, the adviser, without undue delay, shall contact and advise the author of the material of the refusal and reasons therefore.

Appeals from the author must be made to the principal or his designee within three school days. As soon as possible, but not more than three school days later, the school principal or designee shall meet with the author to hear the appeal and render a decision.

Reference: Education Code Section 48907, 48950

Regulation approved: November 7, 1978; September 6, 2005

CONTRACT FOR STUDENT JOURNALIST

As a student journalist, it is my duty to seek the truth and provide a fair and comprehensive account of events and issues. As a student journalist, I will uphold integrity and honesty by seeking truth and reporting it, minimizing harm, acting independently, and accepting accountability for my actions. I will abide by the Society of Professional Journalists' Code of Ethics and the Fullerton Joint Union High School District AR 6565.

As a student journalist, I will:

- maintain professional standards of English and journalism in the selection, writing, and submission of stories that conform to good journalistic writing style;
- verify facts and quotes (which may in some cases require written permission from sources and/or parents of sources);
- rewrite stories as required by editors or the adviser for accuracy, to improve journalistic structure, sentence structure, grammar, style, or mechanics;
- treat controversial issues in a fair and ethical manner;
- provide space for rebuttals, in the same issue if possible, but otherwise no later than the following issue;
- meet deadlines'
- produce a publication which meets professional standards of journalism;
- refrain from the publication of obscene, libelous, or slanderous material according to current legal definitions;
- avoid language and material that incites students to create a "clear and present danger" of the commission of unlawful acts on school premises or the violation of lawful District and/or school regulations, or the substantial disruption of the orderly operation of school;
- do nothing to invade the privacy of individuals or disclose information or records that are confidential by law or District regulation;
- not plagiarize; and
- seek appropriate and timely means of resolving conflicts with adviser.

I recognize it is a privilege to be a member of this publications staff. I agree to abide by the above expectations. I understand that if I fail to meet these expectations, I may be removed from my position and/or the publications class.

Signed:

DATE

Student Signature

Date

Parent Signature

Date

Adviser Signature