

REGULATION ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Related Entries: JCB

Responsible Office: DIVISION OF CURRICULUM AND INSTRUCTION, OFFICE OF SCHOOL PERFORMANCE

STUDENT JOURNALISM

A. PURPOSE

To provide guidance regarding freedom of expression in student journalism in accordance with Maryland law.

B. BACKGROUND

Maryland Education Law authorizes freedom of expression in student journalism with limitations related to certain language.

C. DEFINITIONS

School-sponsored media – any material, except for that which is intended for distribution or transmission solely in the classroom in which the material is produced that is prepared, written, published, or broadcast by a student journalist at a public institution of higher education; distributed or generally made available to members of the student body; and prepared under the direction of a student media advisor.

Student journalist – an Anne Arundel County Public School (AACPS) student who gathers, compiles, writes, edits, photographs, records, or prepares information for dissemination in school-sponsored media.

Student media advisor – an individual employed, appointed, or designated by AACPS to supervise or provide instruction relating to school-sponsored media.

D. PROCEDURES

1. A student journalist may exercise freedom of speech and freedom of the press in school-sponsored media, which may not be limited by the fact that the school-sponsored media is:
 - a. supported financially by AACPS; or
 - b. produced in conjunction with a class in which the student journalist is enrolled.
2. Under the supervision of a student media or journalist advisor, student journalists are responsible for determining the news, opinion, feature,

and advertising content of school-sponsored media. However, this regulation does not prevent a student media advisor from teaching professional standards of English and journalism to student journalists.

3. This Regulation and its companion Policy JCB – Student Journalism, does not protect and shall not be construed to authorize or protect content of school-sponsored media by a student journalist and AACPS may exercise prior restraint of school-sponsored media that:
 - a. is libelous or slanderous;
 - b. vulgar, or lewd, or obscene;
 - c. has the intent to harass, threaten, or intimidate;
 - d. constitutes an unwarranted invasion of privacy; violates federal or state law;
 - e. incites students to create a clear and present danger of the commission of an unlawful act, the violation of county board policies, or the material and substantial disruption of the orderly operation of the public school; or
 - f. violates the AACPS Code of Student Conduct
4. A student media advisor may not use the advisor’s position to influence a student journalist to promote an official position of an individual school or that of AACPS.
5. A student journalist may not be disciplined for acting in accordance with Policy JCB – Student Journalism and this regulation.
6. A student media or journalist advisor may not be dismissed, suspended, disciplined, reassigned, transferred, or otherwise retaliated against for:
 - a. acting to protect a student journalist for exercising freedom of expression in accordance with Policy JCB – Student Journalism, and this Regulation; or
 - b. refusing to infringe on conduct that is protected within Policy JCB and this regulation, the First Amendment of the United States Constitutions, or Article 40 of the Maryland Declaration of Rights.

Regulation History: Developed by Superintendent 10/26/16
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Note Previous Regulation History: None