

Students

Use of Electronic Devices

Restrictions on Publications and Written or Electronic Material

School-Sponsored Publications and Websites: School-sponsored publications, productions, and websites are part of the curriculum and are not a public forum for general student use. School authorities may edit or delete material that is inconsistent with the District's educational mission.

All school-sponsored communications shall comply with the ethics and rules of responsible journalism. Text that is libelous, obscene, vulgar, lewd, invades the privacy of others, conflicts with the basic educational mission of the school, is socially inappropriate, is inappropriate due to the maturity of the students, or is materially disruptive to the educational process will not be tolerated.

The author's name shall accompany personal opinions and editorial statements. An opportunity for the expression of differing opinions from those published/produced will be provided within the same media.

Non-School Sponsored Publications and Web Sites Accessed or Distributed at School, including on school property or at school-related activities: Students are prohibited from accessing and/or distributing at school any written or electronic material, including material from the Internet that:

1. Will cause substantial disruption of the proper and orderly operation and discipline of the school or school activities;
2. Violates the rights of others, including but not limited to, material that is libelous, invades the privacy of others, or infringes on a copyright;
3. Is socially inappropriate or inappropriate due to the maturity level of the students, including but not limited to, material that is obscene, pornographic, or pervasively lewd and vulgar, or contains indecent or vulgar language; or
4. Is primarily intended for the immediate solicitation of funds.

A student may be disciplined for accessing or distributing inappropriate (as defined above) material, or for writing, creating, or publishing such material intending for it to be accessed or distributed at school, including on school property or at school-related activities.

The distribution of non-school sponsored written material shall occur at a time and place and in a manner that will not cause disruption, be coercive, or result in the perception that the distribution of the material is endorsed by the Stafford Public Schools.

Student-Created or Distributed Written or Electronic Material Including Blogs: A student may be disciplined for creating and/or distributing written or electronic material, including Internet material and blogs, that cause substantial disruption to school operations or interferes with the rights of other students or staff members.

(cf. [0521](#) – Nondiscrimination)

(cf. [5114](#) – Suspension and Expulsion/Due Process)

(cf. [5131.81](#) – Use of Electronic Devices)

(cf. [5131.911](#) – Bullying)

(cf. [5131.913](#) – Cyberbullying)
(cf. [5145.4](#) – Nondiscrimination)
(cf. [5145.5](#) – Sexual Harassment)

Legal Reference: *Eisner v. Stamford Board of Education*, 440 F. 2d 803 (2nd Cir 1971)
Trachtman v. Anker, 563 F. 2d 512 (2nd Cir. 1977) cert. denied, 435 U.S. 925 (1978)
Hazelwood School District v. Ruhlmeir, 484 U.S. 260, 108 S Ct 562 (1988)
Bethel School District v. Fraser, 478 US 675 (1986)
Tinker v. Des Moines Independent Community Dist., 393 US 503, (1969)

Policy adopted: May 9, 2011