

School-Related Student Publications

School-sponsored publications are a public forum for students as well as an educational activity through which students can gain experience in reporting, writing, editing, and understanding responsible journalism. Because the Charter Board recognizes creative student expression as an educational benefit of the school experience, it encourages freedom of comment, both oral and written, in a school setting with a degree of order in which proper learning can take place.

The Charter Board encourages students to express their views in school-sponsored publications and to observe rules for responsible journalism. This means expression which is false or obscene, libelous, slanderous, or defamatory under state law; presents a clear and present danger of the commission of unlawful acts, violation of school rules, or material and substantial disruption of the orderly operation of the charter school; violates the privacy rights of others, or threatens violence to property or persons shall not be permitted.

Student editors of school-sponsored publications shall be responsible for determining the news, opinion, and advertising content of their publications subject to the limitations of this policy and state law. The publications advisor within the charter school shall be responsible for supervising the production of school-sponsored publications and for teaching and encouraging free and responsible expression and professional standards of journalism.

The publications advisor has authority to establish or limit writing assignments for students working with publications and to otherwise direct and control the learning experience that publications are intended to provide when participation in a school-sponsored publication is part of a school class or activity for which grades or school credits are given.

All charter school-sponsored publications shall contain a disclaimer that expression made by students in the exercise of freedom of speech or freedom of the press is not an expression of Charter Board policy. The charter school and employees are provided immunity from civil or criminal penalties for any expression made or published by students.

The administrator shall develop, for approval by the Charter Board, a written official charter school publications code which shall include:

1. A statement of the purposes of official charter school publications.
2. Responsibilities of official charter school publications' advisors and student editors.
3. A list of prohibited materials.
4. Reasonable provisions for the time, place, and manner of distributing school-sponsored student publications within the charter school's jurisdiction.
5. Procedures for resolving differences.

The publications code shall be distributed to all students and teachers at the beginning of each charter school year.

LEGAL REFS.: C.R.S. 22-1-120 (rights of free expression for public school students)
C.R.S. 22-1-122 (5)(e) (state law does not prevent a student who is working under the supervision of a journalism teacher or sponsor from preparing or participating in a survey, analysis, or evaluation without obtaining written parental consent as long as participation is not prohibited by federal law)
C.R.S. 22-32-110 (1)(r) (power to exclude materials that are immoral or pernicious)

CROSS REFS.: JICED*, Student Expression Rights
JLDAC, Screening/Testing of Students

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Adoption Date: 3-13-2001

Lake George Charter School