

**BEND - LA PINE SCHOOL DISTRICT NO 1
ADMINISTRATIVE REGULATIONS
CODE: IB-AR
DATED:
REVISED:
REVIEW DATE:
REVIEWED BY:**

FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION

Freedom of expression is a constitutional right. It is guaranteed in the schools within a context, which recognizes other basic rights of the individual student, including the right to pursue one's education without disruption. The opportunity for students to exercise freedom of expression within the law is an important element in the learning process.

A. FREEDOM OF STUDENT INQUIRY AND EXPRESSION

1. Generally, students and student organizations are free to examine and discuss questions of interest to them and to express opinions publicly and privately within the school system, provided such examination and expression is fair and responsible and is not disruptive to other individuals or to the educational process. Students may support causes by orderly means, which do not disrupt other individuals or the operation of the school.

2. In the classroom students are free to examine views offered in any course of study, provided such examination is expressed in a responsible manner.

B. FREEDOM OF ASSOCIATION

Students are free to organize associations to promote their common interests. Student organizations should be open to all students. Membership criteria may not exclude students on the basis of race, creed, national origin, or sex. Each student organization must have a faculty advisor to counsel and, when necessary, supervise students in the organization. All student organizations must follow and meet the constitutional guidelines in their school student government constitution. All student organizations must submit to the school a statement of purpose, criteria for membership, rules and procedures, and a current list of officers. School administrators may establish reasonable rules and regulations governing the activity of student organizations.

C. PUBLICATIONS

On occasion, materials such as leaflets, newsletters, cartoons, and other items are prepared and distributed by students as part of the educational process and free expression in an academic community. The principal may control the time and manner of distribution to assure that the school learning process is uninterrupted. Such materials may be restricted or prohibited, however, pursuant to legitimate educational concerns. Such concerns include:

1. The material is or may be defamatory;

2. The material is inappropriate based on the age, grade level, and/or maturity of the reading audience;

3. The material is poorly written, inadequately researched, or biased or prejudices;

4. Whether there is an opportunity for a named individual or named individuals to make a response;

5. Whether specific individuals may be identified even though the material does not use or give names;

6. The material is or may be otherwise generally disruptive to the school environment. Such disruption may occur, for example, if the material uses, advocates or condones the use of profane language or advocates or condones the commission of unlawful acts; and

7. Students, parents, and members of the public might reasonably perceive the materials to bear the sanction or approval of the school district.