

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 administrators and staff may edit or delete material that is inconsistent with the educational mission of Ledyard Public Schools.

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

The author's name will 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 Websites

Students are prohibited from (1) distributing written or electronic materials, on school property or at school-related activities, or (2) accessing internet websites, while on school property, at school-related activities, or by using school equipment, that:

1. Will cause substantial disruption of the proper and orderly operation and discipline of the school or school-sponsored 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; or
3. Is socially inappropriate or inappropriate because of 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.

The distribution of non-school-sponsored written or printed material will only occur at a time and place and in a manner designated by the building Principal that will not cause disruption, be coercive, or result in the perception that the distributed material is endorsed by the District.

Disciplinary Action

Students in violation of this policy may be disciplined up to and including being suspended and/or expelled in accordance with Board policy. Additionally, students may be disciplined for creating and/or distributing written or electronic material outside the school setting if such action causes substantial disruption to the operation of the school or interferes with the rights of other students or staff members. Possible criminal acts will be reported to Ledyard Police.

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Related Policies:

5114 – Suspension, Expulsion and Due Process
5131.8 – Out-of-School Misconduct

Legal References:

Connecticut Public Act 10-191 – *An Act Concerning Sexting*

Eisner v. Stamford Board of Education, 440 F. 2d 803 (2nd Cir. 1971)

Trachtman v. Anker, 563 F. 2d 512 (2nd Cir. 1977)

Hazelwood School District v. Ruhlmeir, 484 U.S. 260, 108 S Ct 562 (1988)

Bethel School District v. Fraser, 478 U.S. 675 (1986)

Tinker v. Des Moines Independent Community Dist., 393 U.S. 503 (1969)

Policy adopted: December 15, 2010