

Student Expression

It is the goal of the district to protect the educational environment for all students to help ensure it is free from substantial disruption or infringement upon their rights. Student expression should be appropriate to ensure that the students learn and meet the goals of the school activity and that the potential audience is not exposed to material that may be harmful or inappropriate for their level of maturity.

While students will generally be allowed to express their viewpoints and opinions, in certain qualifying circumstances, student speech may require administrative regulation to help ensure the safety and welfare of the school community. The district may regulate speech that: causes or is reasonably anticipated to cause a material and substantial disruption to the education environment; infringes upon the rights of others; is obscene or lewd; is school sponsored; and/or promotes illegal activity. The administration, when making this judgment, will consider whether the activity in which the expression was made is school-sponsored and whether review or prohibition of the students' speech furthers an educational purpose. The expression must be done in a reasonable time, place, and manner that is not disruptive to the orderly and efficient operation of the school district.

The superintendent or designee may develop procedures for safely addressing qualifying types of mass protests by students, including walk-ins and walk-outs. Walk-ins occur when students leave their learning environments during school hours and gather in a group or groups with the purpose of promoting a belief or beliefs. Walk-outs occur when students leave their learning environments during school hours and gather in a group or groups off district property with the purpose of promoting a belief or beliefs.

Administration should consult the following policies and “consider whether the activity in which the expression was made is school-sponsored and whether review or prohibition of the students' speech furthers an educational purpose. The expression must be done in a reasonable time, place, and manner that is not disruptive to the orderly and efficient operation of the school district.” (Student Expression policy)

- Policy 1002: Multicultural/Nonsexist Policy
- Policy 1003: Cultural Proficiency Philosophy
- Policy 1005: Anti-Discrimination
- Policy 5000: Statement of Guiding Principles
- Policy 6207: Political Activities in the Schools

As a district, our schools are not encouraging or discouraging student participation in any walk-outs that may occur. We also recognize that students have the right to participate if they wish to and, as always, our goal will be to provide a safe environment for students. As we would with any similar event, we expect that students participating will do so in a respectful way.

When there is a protest or a walk-out, we expect classes to continue as scheduled. Any student who participates in a walk-in or walk-out will be marked tardy or absent based on normal class attendance policies. There will be no more or less disciplinary action outside of current practices or policies.

As an additional safety measure, we expect our principals to communicate the absence with the family of the student at the earliest convenience.