

# ADMINISTRATIVE POLICIES OF THE MILWAUKEE PUBLIC SCHOOLS

## ADMINISTRATIVE POLICY 7.20 STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

### (1) SCHOOL-SPONSORED STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

(a) School-sponsored publications shall be produced primarily by students. Efforts should be made to make the publication reflect a wide variety of student opinions.

(b) The principal and publication advisors shall be accorded the opportunity to review material to be printed prior to publication and may suspend publication of material considered to be obscene, libelous, or likely to cause disruption of the educational environment.

(c) Student publications should be as free as other newspapers in the community to report the news and editorialize and shall be expected to observe the rules of responsible journalism.

### (2) PUBLICATIONS

(a) The Administration may make reasonable rules regarding the time, place, and manner of distribution of all materials distributed by students.

(b) Students shall have the right to publish any magazine, newspaper, leaflet, flyer, or petition, but such publications shall be subject to laws on obscenity and libel; therefore, the information contained in publications should be as accurate as possible. The same general rules shall apply to buttons, pins, emblems, and similar items.

(c) Students may distribute publications off school grounds as long as they do not block pedestrian traffic or otherwise break the law. Students shall be expected to make efforts to prevent littering.

(d) Students shall also be permitted to distribute leaflets and other publications at school if these materials are not obscene or defamatory, and if their distribution doesn't interfere with the educational process and the orderly operation of the school. No staff member shall discipline or threaten to discipline any student for exercising this right within the above guidelines. Distribution of material does not excuse students from their responsibility to attend classes.

### (3) POSTING

Students may post materials in the schools in the places designated by the school principals for posting so long as the materials are not obscene, libelous, or likely to cause disruption of the educational process or the orderly operation of the school.

### (4) THE RIGHT TO PETITION

(a) Students shall have the right to present petitions to the Administration, assuming that the petitions are free of obscenities, libelous statements, and personal attack. Individual schools may establish rules which reasonably limit the time for the collecting of signatures on petitions to avoid disruption of the educational process or the orderly operation of the school.

(b) Students may not be penalized or punished in any way for signing a petition, but the Administration shall not be obligated to respond to the petition.

**History:** Adopted 6-30-75; reaffirmed 2-22-95; revised 3-26-97

**Previous Coding:** Admin. Policy IGDB, prior to May 1995; Admin. Policy 9.20, May 1995-August 1996

**Cross Ref.:** Admin. Policy 8.27 Student Complaints and Grievances

— ◇ —