

XXXIII.
Student Publications

School Newspaper
Yearbook

SCHOOL PUBLICATIONS

School publications are usually limited to the yearbook, school newspaper, and literary magazine. A publication advisor and the Activities Director work closely together in scheduling class photographs, advertisements, sale promotions, as well as ensuring proper school coverage of activities.

The procedures for compilation and printing of school publications are extensive and outlined in detail in the Manual of Internal Fund Accounting for Elementary and Secondary Schools.

Student Expression

One of the important roles of a school is to provide effective avenues for student expression. The Principal is charged with the authority and responsibility to see that this right is exercised in a manner that is free from arbitrary censorship, compatible with responsible student behavior, and consistent with the needs of the school. Appropriate guidelines dealing with student expression, agreed upon by the administration and students, should be available to all parents and students in order to ensure appropriate compliance with Board Rule 6Gx13-1A-1.07. <http://www.dadeschools.net/schoolboard/rules/Chapt1/1a-1.07.pdf>

“It is, therefore, the policy of M-DCPS that student journalists shall be afforded protection against censorship.” This is not to be interpreted as a license to publish whatever the student pleases. The student is limited by the three-pronged definition of the types of material not protected by the First Amendment (determined by the U.S. Supreme Court):

1. Obscene as to minors;
2. Defamatory, including libel and slander; and/or
3. Materially and substantially disruptive of school activities.

School administrators will not exercise prior review of material to be published nor penalize a person who serves as advisor to a student publication because said person did not suppress the free expression of the student journalist. Disciplinary action may be imposed upon students who violate the unprotected speech guidelines listed above.

Literature Not Sponsored by the School

Students have the right to publish and distribute their own printed material on school grounds so long as their distribution is consistent with the policies of the school and the content will not create disruption in the conduct of school activities. These students may not use the school’s name when seeking advertisers. Violation of this, as well as the unprotected speech policies will subject the students to disciplinary action.

School Newspaper

The school newspaper is not intended to be a money raising activity. It is an instructional related activity of English and Journalism classes, and a school news media. The intent is to provide this activity on a self-sustaining basis, but does not preclude the partial or full subsidizing of newspaper from other school funds when available.

The following regulations govern newspaper activities:

1. The list of firms from which advertising solicitation is proposed must be reviewed by the Principal.
2. The supervision of newspaper to ensure conformity with Board policy on communications with the public rests with the Principal.
3. The solicitation of quotations for any printing services from three or more printers is required. Only one set of quotations is required for the entire year, unless a change of printers necessitates re-bidding.

Yearbook

The publishing of a yearbook is a student activity financed wholly by book related revenue. As a student activity, the yearbook is governed by all regular policies and regulations related to internal fund activities; and, because of the size of importance of the activity, the Board has made specific rulings regarding contracts for printing and photography services.

It is determined that in the best interest of the school system, the purchase of school annuals and other such items of common use to be purchased from funds handled in trust for individuals shall follow formal bid procedures as specified in the Manual of Internal Fund Accounting for Elementary and Secondary Schools.

Schools will be selected to participate in a program for the on-line purchase of yearbooks during the 2010-2011 school year.