



# Huntington Beach Union High School District Board Policies and Administrative Regulations

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## Students

### Freedom of Speech/Expression

#### A. Bulletin boards

1. Students shall be provided with bulletin boards for use in posting student materials on campus in locations convenient to student use. The local school administration will make the final decision of the location of these bulletin boards.
2. No material shall be posted for a duration in excess of two weeks, and the removal of such material shall be the responsibility of the local school administration.
3. Materials which are obscene, libelous or slanderous, according to current legal definitions, and which incite students so as to create a clear and present danger of the commission of unlawful acts on the school premises or the violation of any lawful school regulation, or would result in substantial disruption of the orderly operation of the schools, are prohibited and shall not be posted, distributed or displayed on campus.

#### B. Distribution or display of printed materials or petitions not published under school authority

1. Students shall be allowed to distribute and display petitions, circulars, leaflets, newspapers, and other printed material subject to the specific limitations set forth in this regulation. The time of distribution of material shall be limited to the hours before the first regularly scheduled class period and after the last regularly scheduled class period.
2. Coercion, force, or pressure shall not be used to induce any student to accept printed material or to sign a petition. Funds, advertisements, or donations shall not be collected or solicited for any material distributed or displayed.
3. Materials shall not be left undistributed except as authorized on bulletin boards or stacked for pickup at

any place by students in the school or on the school grounds. The student responsible for the distribution or display of materials shall be responsible for reasonable cleanup of those materials on the campus.

4. All printed material distributed or displayed shall clearly indicate the author and/or agency responsible for its production, distribution, or display and shall be dated with an address and telephone number provided.
5. Materials which are obscene, libelous or slanderous, according to current legal definitions, and which incite students so as to create a clear and present danger of the commission of unlawful acts on the school premises or the violation of any lawful school regulation, or would result in substantial disruption of the orderly operation of the schools, are prohibited and shall not be posted, distributed or displayed on campus.

C. Symbolic expression

Students shall be permitted to wear buttons, badges, armbands, and other insignia as a form of expression subject to the responsibilities and prohibitions set forth in this or any other school district regulation.

D. Official School Publications

1. "Official school publications" refers to material produced by students in the journalism, newspaper, yearbook, or writing classes at each school and distributed to the student body either free or for a fee.
2. The purposes of official school publications are to (a) provide a practical vehicle for the teaching of publication skills and those particular writing skills which are utilized in commercial journalistic publications; and (b) provide assistance to the school staff and community in gaining insight into current student thought and action.
3. It shall be the responsibility of a journalism advisor or advisor(s) of official student publications within each school to supervise the production of the student staff, to maintain professional standards of English and journalism, and to maintain the provisions of the policy. An appropriately trained advisor or advisors shall provide each official student publication to teach proper journalistic skills and performance, including (a) accurate and impartial news coverage; (b) complete and

objective reporting; (c) well-researched, factual information supporting opinion in editorials; (d) a sound and ethical financial program, where appropriate, through the use of promotion, sales and advertising; (e) complete and meaningful photographic coverage of the school and its programs; (f) good taste and discretion in the use of written and pictorial copy containing profanity, vulgarities, and other matter not acceptable for publication in community newspapers; (g) adequate distribution of the publication; and (h) effective evaluation of the publication by the advisors, editors, rating services and professional journalists.

4. Students shall be taught proper grammar, form and journalistic style commonly accepted in the community. Students shall also be taught how to convey their ideas and thoughts to others in a creative journalistic manner.
5. Student editors of official school publications shall be responsible for assigning and editing the news, editorial, and features content of their publications, consistent with the provisions of this policy.
6. All copy submitted for publication shall conform to good journalistic or other acceptable writing style. Copy shall be rewritten by its author as required by the advisor to improve journalistic structure, sentence structure, grammar, spelling, and punctuation. All represented facts and quotes should be checked and verified.
7. All expression which is obscene, libelous or slanderous or which incites students as to a clear and present danger of the commission of unlawful acts on school premises or the violation of school law or school regulations or the substantial disruption of the orderly operation of the schools shall not be allowed to be published.
8. In the event that a student requests that material be published which has been rejected by the advisor(s) pursuant to this regulation, the student may submit such material to the school principal who shall have 48 hours after submission to review the material and make a determination whether or not it meets the provisions of this policy. The decision of any local school administrator in regard to this regulation shall be final and may be appealed in writing to the superintendent or

his/her designee. Any such appeal must be filed within three (3) school days after the decision of the local school administrator.

The superintendent or his/her designee shall render a decision on any appeal within a reasonable time, but not later than two (2) school days after receipt of the appeal. If a student is dissatisfied with the decision of the superintendent, he/she may present a written appeal to the Board within three (3) days after the decision of the superintendent.

The Board shall render a decision on any appeal within a timely period after receipt of the appeal. When the appeal is received at least three (3) school days prior to a regularly scheduled Board meeting, a decision shall be rendered at that meeting. Otherwise, the Board shall render a decision on the appeal on or before its next regularly scheduled meeting. The decision of the Board shall be final.