

Student Publications/Productions/Student Speech

Section 1. General. The United States Supreme Court, in Hazelwood v. Kuhlmeier, 108 S. Ct. 562 (1988), recognized that educators do not offend the First Amendment by exercising control over school-sponsored expressive activities so long as their actions are reasonably related to legitimate educational concerns. On the other hand, private, school-tolerated student speech may be controlled only to the extent it substantially disrupts or materially interferes with a school's disciplinary concerns.

Section 2. School-Sponsored Publications/Productions. East Allen County Schools' school-sponsored student publications and productions are supervised learning experiences for students interested in journalism and related fields. As a result, East Allen County Schools has a strong educational interest in ensuring the articles or commentaries in a school-sponsored publication or production maintain a level of "responsible journalism" and "journalistic integrity." Since members of the public might reasonably perceive school-sponsored publications and productions to bear the imprimatur of East Allen County Schools, East Allen County Schools' administrators and teachers may regulate the content of such publications and productions in a reasonable manner to:

1. Assure that participants learn whatever lessons the activity is designed to teach.
2. Assure that readers or listeners are not exposed to material that may be inappropriate for their level of maturity.
3. Assure that the view of an individual writer is not erroneously attributed to East Allen County Schools, or any East Allen County Schools' school.

School-sponsored publications and productions are part of the curriculum and are not a public forum for general student use. School officials may edit or delete material that is inconsistent with the educational mission of East Allen County Schools. All school-sponsored student media will comply with the ethics and rules of responsible journalism. Accordingly, East Allen County Schools will not tolerate text or commentary in school-sponsored publications or productions that is libelous, obscene, invades the privacy of others, conflicts with the basic educational mission of the school, is socially inappropriate due to the maturity of students, or is materially disruptive to the educational process.

The student author's name will accompany personal opinion and editorial statements. An opportunity for the expression of differing opinions from those published/produced will be provided within the same media.

Section 3. Non-School Sponsored Publications. Students may distribute non-school sponsored written material, including material that is religious in nature or content, at school in accordance with the building principal's distribution rules. Students, however, may not distribute material at school that is obscene, libelous, invades the privacy of others, will cause substantial disruption of the proper and orderly operation and discipline of the school or school activities, or advocates conduct otherwise inconsistent with the shared values of a civilized social order.