



Student free expression

City Schools of Decatur (CSD) is supportive of students' civil rights, including the right of free speech and expression, and encourages the exercise of those rights within the framework provided by law.

Definitions

- *School-sponsored media* is a magazine, newspaper, yearbook, song, website, monograph, pamphlet, animation, or other product generated by a student or students as part of a course or club and/or at a CSD employee's direction or supervision.

Overview

School officials, consistent with the law, shall exercise editorial control of the time, place, content, and manner of student expression, so long as their actions are reasonably related to legitimate safety or pedagogical concerns and do not disrupt school activity or create substantial disorder. City Schools of Decatur shall not permit student expression that would substantially interfere with or impinge upon the safety or rights of staff or students. Student expression shall comply with the Student Code of Conduct and other relevant policies and regulations.

School-Sponsored Media

CSD does not operate any school-sponsored media as a public forum. School-sponsored media are part of the curriculum, and CSD reserves the right to exercise editorial control to the maximum degree consistent with the law. School officials, such as a principal, course instructor, or club sponsor, may exercise control over school-sponsored media, consistent with the law, to ensure e.g. that participants learn whatever lessons the activity is designed to teach; readers or listeners are not exposed to material that may be inappropriate for their level of maturity; views of the individual speaker are not erroneously attributed to CSD; and/or content is not ungrammatical, poorly written, inadequately researched, biased, prejudiced, vulgar, profane, libelous, disruptive of school activities or likely to create substantial disorder.

Student Attire

The Executive Director of Equity & Student Support shall create and maintain a district-wide dress code that reinforces student safety while also respecting statutory rights to free expression. The dress code will be published each year through means reasonably likely to notify parents/guardians and students.



City Schools of Decatur Administrative Regulation

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Questions about this regulation should be directed to the Executive Director of Schools.

Related Board Policy: 2.7(H)

Public Comment Window:

Approved by Cabinet: [DATE APPROVED/MODIFIED]