

Board Policy 5145

Students have certain inalienable rights & freedoms as citizens and as members of the school community. Some

of these are established and protected by law. Others are recognized & protected by School Board and staff.

Freedom of Government

Students may establish and participate in a representative student government. Students and staff will jointly establish a system of organization and procedure for the student government, and determine areas of authority and activity of this government, which shall be approved by the Board. When the organization, procedures, areas of authority and activities have been approved by the Board, no substantial changes in them

may be made without the mutual agreement of the student government and school administration. In cases of differences between the student government and the school administration, the Board shall have final authority. A representative of student government will be appointed student representative to the Board of Trustees, with full rights of membership except those prohibited by law.

Freedom of the Press

Each school administrator and his/her staff, in consultation with the student government, shall establish guidelines for student publications. Guidelines for student publications of general scope, which serve and/or represent the student body or school as a whole, should provide for appropriate staff/ student editorial review prior to publication. The guidelines should

establish journalistic standards consistent with the general scope & purposes of the specific publications. Guidelines for individual or small group publications should allow maximum freedom of creative & political expression, within legal limitations of obscenity, inciting to riot, or disruption of school operations.

Freedom of Speech, Petition, & Assembly

Students are free to form & express opinions, take stands, and support causes, within following limits:
1) No exercise of these freedoms may abridge the rights of others, including the right to the undisturbed pursuit of education. 2) No materials posted or distributed, and no public speeches made, may contain material that is legally obscene or libelous. 3) No coercion or threats of reprisal may be made against fellow students or staff. Students may distribute handbills, leaflets, and other

printed materials and may collect signatures on petitions, whether such materials are produced within or without the school, provided that: 1) Distribution or solicitation takes place before or after school hours or at lunch time. 2) Normal traffic flow may not be impeded nor undue levels of noise created. 3) All material distributed or posted or circulated bear the name of the sponsoring organization or individual. Ample bulletin board space shall be provided for the use of students and student organizations.

Other Rights of Students

In addition to the basic freedoms listed above, students have certain other rights. Among these are:
1. Right of use of school facilities for school-sponsored extracurricular activities, subject to regulations concerning safety, supervision, and student conduct.
2. Right to participate in selection of staff through

inclusion of student members in normal hiring procedures and committees.
3. Rights to participate in committees concerning school affairs, through the inclusion of student members in such committees as are concerned with matters affecting the kind and quality of education in the school.

Right of Protest

Students have the right and obligation to protest if they feel a policy or regulation or rule has been misapplied, their rights violated, or their freedom abridged without sufficient reason. Regulations will be formulated by the administration, staff, and students of each school to

provide procedures for hearing of student protests and ensuring due process. Students may not be recriminated against, or suffer any loss of credit, freedom, or credit as a result of engaging in protest through established procedures.

Duties/Responsibilities

Student rights & freedoms, as those of all citizens, are accompanied by responsibilities & duties. As each student matures, he/she is expected to assume the responsibilities appropriate to his/her growing capacities. Students at all levels are expected to:
1) Respect the rights of others to act & speak freely, & to pursue studies & activities without interference.
2) Attend class regularly and complete assignments to the best of their ability. 3) Respect and protect school buildings, grounds, equipment, and materials. 4) Be

courteous to fellow students, teachers, and other employees or guests of the school.
5. Obey school policies, regulations, and rules. As a student matures and becomes capable of greater self-regulation and making independent decisions, he/she should: 1) Take increasing responsibility for his/her own education by studying and completing assignments independently, by planning his/her own educational program, and setting his/her own educational goals. 2) Assists other students by sharing knowledge and resources. 3) Help design and operate

the school by participation in student government, planning committees, and other activities suitable to his/her interests and capacities. 4) Work through established procedures to change things in the school that seem to be wrong or damaging.