

Freedom of Expression/Speech

The Board of Education supports the dissemination and discussion of diverse points of view. Through the administration it encourages the publishing and distribution of student newspapers, journals and other publications. While students' rights to freedom of expression are constitutionally guaranteed, these rights are limited with regard to libelous or obscene statements or material that would cause substantial disruption of the educational process.

School administrators have the right to prevent distribution of items that would disrupt the educational process and to regulate the time, place and manner of distributing written material so as to maintain the appropriate educational atmosphere.

Administrators also have the right to require that student publications reflect responsible journalism and are appropriate to the maturity levels of students.

Students shall be informed of all regulations in regard to publication and distribution of printed matter as long as they conform to the following guidelines:

1. Students may distribute literature on school property at specified locations and times designated.
2. No commercial or obscene material, nothing of a libelous nature or involving neither the defamation of character nor anything advocating racial or religious prejudice will be permitted to be distributed within the school.
3. Any literature distributed within the school must bear identification as to its source.

Litchfield Board of Education

Policy Adopted: November 17, 1987

Policy Reviewed: October 1, 1998

Policy Reviewed: November 19, 2014