

VIGO COUNTY SCHOOL CORPORATION
TERRE HAUTE, INDIANA

File: IM

STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

Student newspapers and student yearbooks have been established as school sponsored student publications for student expression. The purpose of these publications is to provide meaningful learning opportunities in journalism through responsible reporting and to educate, enlighten, and entertain school and community readers.

The school corporation encourages vigorous treatment of a wide range of subject matter. Student journalists are free to report and to editorialize on events, ideas, and issues in their high school, community, nation, and world even though their reports or editorials may be controversial, unpopular, or critical of school affairs or officials.

Material which is libelous or obscene, according to popular legal definition, or which would pose a real and substantial threat to the school's educational program or which is vulgar by community standards shall not be published.

When a publication advisor becomes aware that the contemplated content of an article for one of these publications may violate the provisions of the previous paragraph, the advisory will consult with the building principal. The student staff can appeal any adverse decision promptly to the Superintendent.

Student journalists should cover all aspects of a topic accurately and treat sources fairly and with respect. Each publication staff should develop and publicize its editorial policy which should establish procedures for the expression of opposing views for the correction of errors and the handling of complaints with regard to content.

Publications produced without school sponsorship must have written approval of the principal prior to distribution. If approved for distribution, the publication must:

- (1) include the name of the sponsoring organization or individual;
- (2) be distributed as directed by the principal;
- (3) contain the phrase, "The opinions expressed are not necessarily those of the school district or its personnel"; and
- (4) meet the standards for school sponsored publications as identified in paragraph 3 above.

Adoption Date: July 12, 1999

Legal Ref:

Cross Ref: