



NEW TRIER TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT 203

Board of Education Policy 7-130

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STUDENTS

STUDENT RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

All students are entitled to enjoy the rights protected by the Federal and State constitutions and laws for persons of their age and maturity in a school setting. Students should exercise these rights reasonably and avoid violating the rights of others. Students who violate the rights of others or violate District policies or rules will be subject to disciplinary measures.

Freedom of expression shall include the right to present a point of view; the right to dissent; and the right to silence and privacy.

Student Opinion

The Board of Education welcomes the views of students on matters relative to curriculum, class schedules, extra class activities and all other matters pertaining to the school community. These views should be in writing and addressed to the Superintendent and the Board.

Student Media Organization

The Board is committed to freedom of expression for student forums. The school newspapers, yearbook literary magazine and radio station are encouraged to operate in a positive climate in which the students demonstrate a high level of responsibility and enjoy the trust and respect of their community. The instruction and training which students receive under the guidance of professional sponsors are expected to ensure that issues of student interest, including topics about which there may be controversy or dissent, be handled with regard for sensitivity and professional ethics. Furthermore, the additional education which student writers, editors and broadcasters gain through the experience of making decisions about the content of student publications and broadcasts is expected to allow students to practice their training commensurate with accepted professional standards.

Bulletin Boards

At least one bulletin board shall be provided in the school for use by approved student organizations, informal student groups and individual students (other bulletin boards may be designated for official school announcements only). Bulletin boards designated for students may be used for school activities or matters of general interest to students. All posted materials must conform to the general limitations stated in this policy and to the following requirements:

1. All student-posted notices or communications shall be subject to reasonable size limitations, shall be dated, and must be removed after the posting expiration date to assure full access to bulletin boards for all students.
2. All materials are to be stamped with the inclusive dates of posting. The dating stamp is available from the Student Activities Coordinator.
3. Any student materials removed from bulletin boards by an administrator or designee because of a violation of the general limitations stated in this policy will be discussed by the administrator or designee with the student sponsor.

Distribution of Written Materials and Circulation of Petitions

Subject to the procedures and general limitations stated in this policy, students may (a) distribute noncommercial handbills, leaflets and other written materials and (b) collect signatures or petitions concerning either school or non-school matters or issues. Students must seek approval from the Student Activities Coordinator several days in advance of the proposed activity to determine time, place and manner of conducting the activity.

1. The school administration may designate certain times for the conduct of activities under this provision, such as before school begins, after dismissal or during lunch periods, to prevent interference with school programming.
2. The school administration may designate certain places for the conduct of such activities to assure the normal flow of traffic within the school or on the school premises.
3. The school administration may determine the manner of conducting such activities to prevent undue levels of noise, or to prevent the use of coercion or unreasonable interference with any individual or group of individuals.

Signs and Symbols

Subject to the general limitations herein provided, students may carry or wear placards, buttons, badges or armbands on school premises.

Guest Speakers

Subject to the Board's review, the Superintendent or designee has the authority to grant permission to students and faculty to invite guest speakers for programs with educational or community service purposes. Where controversial subjects are dealt with, students should be given an opportunity to hear and discuss various positions. The Superintendent or designee may refuse to permit the use of school property to persons or organizations whose presence may be reasonably expected to result in violence or disruption or who are known to engage in efforts to incite others to violence, disruption or other breach of law.

General Limitations

To insure that the rights of all students are protected, the following will not be permitted:

1. Actions or activities which disrupt or obstruct the operation of the school, provoke disorder or invade the rights of others.
2. The public use of obscenities, falsehoods, innuendoes, or other expressions either harmful to the normal development of the younger and less mature students, or offensive to the reasonable sensibilities of students, faculty or other school personnel.
3. The advertising of commercial products or services or the distribution of materials for payment of any kind, whether as a prize or voluntary contribution, except as established for charitable purposes by school-sponsored and school-contained organizations.
4. Written or visual material involving the use of school equipment and property unless with the prior approval of the faculty sponsor concerned or the Principal. All copies of any written materials, posted or circulated, shall indicate the sponsoring school organization or student group or individual students.
5. Door-to-door solicitation of funds, goods, or services by students in the name of New Trier, a club/group associated with New Trier, or a charitable organization will not be permitted.

Legal References: 23 Ill. Admin. Cd. § 1.210

Hazelwood v. Kuhlmeier, 484 U.S. 260 (1988)

Tinker v. Des Moines Indep. School Dist., 89 S.Ct. 733 (1969)

Adopted: 7/20/94

Affirmed: 5/15/2006

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