# STUDENT RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES STUDENT EXPRESSION

FNA (LOCAL)

STUDENT EXPRESSION OF RELIGIOUS VIEWPOINTS The District shall treat a student's voluntary expression of a religious viewpoint, if any, on an otherwise permissible subject in the same manner the District treats a student's voluntary expression of a secular or other viewpoint on an otherwise permissible subject and shall not discriminate against the student based on a religious viewpoint expressed by the student on an otherwise permissible subject.

### STUDENT SPEAKERS AT SCHOOL EVENTS

The District hereby creates a limited public forum for student speakers at all school events at which a student is to publicly speak. The selection of students who may speak or events at which students may speak will be governed by any District regulation which may concern such selection of speakers or events.

### ELIGIBILITY AND SELECTION

Students are eligible to use the limited public forum if they:

- 1. Are selected on the basis of viewpoint-neutral criteria;
- 2. Are not in disciplinary placement at the time of the event; and
- 3. Where appropriate, are members or elected officers of the student group which is conducting, participating in, or sponsoring the event.

CONTENT OF STUDENT SPEECH The subject of the student speech must be related to the purpose of the event at which the student is to speak and to the purpose of the student's participation in the event. A student's comments must remain related to the purpose or topic and the student may not engage in obscene, vulgar, offensively lewd, or indecent speech.

#### **DISCLAIMER**

A written disclaimer shall be communicated indicating the content of each student speaker's message is the private expression of the individual student and does not necessarily reflect the endorsement, sponsorship, position, or expression of the District.

RELIGIOUS EXPRESSION IN CLASS ASSIGNMENTS A student may express his or her beliefs about religion in homework, artwork, and other written and oral assignments free from discrimination based on the religious content of the student's submission. Homework and classroom work shall be judged by ordinary academic standards of substance and relevance and against other legitimate pedagogical concerns identified by the school. A student shall not be penalized or rewarded because of religious content. If a teacher's assignment involves writing a poem, the work of a student who submits a poem in the form of a prayer (for example, a psalm) should be judged on the basis of academic standards, including literary quality, and not penalized or rewarded because of its religious content.

#### **ALTERNATIVE SAMPLE POLICY**

# STUDENT RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES STUDENT EXPRESSION

FNA (LOCAL)

FREEDOM TO ORGANIZE RELIGIOUS GROUPS AND ACTIVITIES Students may organize prayer groups, religious clubs, "see you at the pole" gatherings, and other religious gatherings before, during, and after school to the same extent that students are permitted to organize other noncurricular student activities and groups. [See FNAB] Religious groups shall be given the same access to school facilities for assembling as is given to other noncurricular groups, without discrimination based on the religious content of the group's expression. If student groups that meet for nonreligious activities are permitted to advertise or announce the groups' meetings, for example, by advertising in a student newspaper, putting up posters, making announcements on a student activities bulletin board or public address system, or handing out leaflets, school authorities shall not discriminate against groups that meet for prayer or other religious speech. School authorities may disclaim sponsorship of noncurricular groups and events, provided the disclaimer is administered in a manner that does not favor or disfavor groups that meet to engage in prayer or other religious speech.