

#5090.4.2

Freedom of Speech / Written and Oral Expression

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5 The Board of Education recognizes and protects the rights of student expression. School
6 administrators are charged with maintaining a balance of these rights with the interests of
7 an orderly and efficient educational process and of a school environment suitable for the
8 healthy growth and development of all students.

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10 The school district shall assume no responsibility for the contents of any written material
11 produced, posted, circulated or otherwise distributed, nor will it be responsible for any
12 student conduct related to any interests other than those of an orderly and efficient
13 educational process and proper school environment.

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15 In order to protect the educational process and school environment, written or oral
16 expression produced, distributed or spoken within the confines of school district property
17 shall meet the following criteria:

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19 1. Written or oral expression shall be noncommercial.
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21 2. Written or oral expression shall not contain libelous or obscene content.
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23 3. Written or oral expression shall not advocate illegal actions.
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25 4. Written or oral expression shall not contain false statements or innuendoes that
26 would subject any person to hatred, ridicule, contempt or injury of reputation.
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28 5. Written or oral expression will not imminently threaten to disrupt the educational
29 process of the school.
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31 6. Written or oral expression shall not advocate action that would endanger the
32 health or safety of students.
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5090.4.2 (Continued)

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- 7. Written or oral expression shall not invade the lawful right of others.
- 8. Material published, posted or otherwise distributed shall bear the names of the students principally involved in the promotion of this material and, when applicable, the name of the sponsoring student organization or group.
- 9. Material may not be sold on school property.
- 10. Material which seeks a donation or solicitation of funds may not be circulated.
- 11. Distributors of materials will be held responsible for cleaning up litter caused by such distribution.

Date of Adoption: 6/20/95

#5100**Cocurricular and Extracurricular Activities**

Cocurricular and extracurricular activities are an important part of the total school curriculum; however, students earn and sustain the privilege of participating in such activities. Such activities, including athletics, clubs and organizations, provide opportunities for students to explore areas of interest as well as to engage in opportunities that promote teamwork, sportsmanship, discipline and leadership.

Cocurricular and extracurricular activities are learning experiences and are to be developed, managed and evaluated with this purpose in mind. Activities are considered part of the total school program and are to be included in the curriculum planning, review and evaluation process, as appropriate. All cocurricular and extracurricular activities are to be approved by the school principal who is responsible for the day-to-day operation and management of all student activity programs and are to operate under the policies, rules, and regulations of the Board.

While it is desirable that students participate in such activities to the extent that they further their educational development, it is of paramount importance that such participation will not jeopardize students' academic achievement nor exploit their time and talents. Loss of privilege to participate in cocurricular and extracurricular activities will occur if the student's behavior results in serious disciplinary action or loss of academic standing.

Date of Adoption: February 27, 1996

#5100.1
Student Organizations

Qualifications for Membership in Student Organizations

Any combination of the following may be used as the basis for membership: scholarship; community service; grade level; subject field; special proficiency evaluated by certificated personnel on the basis of predetermined standards. Under no circumstances is the membership in a school club to be determined by the subjective judgment of the students constituting the club.

Religious Discussion Groups

If the school principal permits student discussion groups to meet on school premises, student religious discussion groups may meet on school premises when the facilities are not being used for school purposes.

Basic Purpose

The basic purpose for raising and expending money by student organizations will be to promote the general welfare, morale, and educational experiences of the student group.

Rules and Regulations. The building principal will oversee the development of rules and regulations for the conduct and operation of student organizations that conform with the policies herein set forth. In addition, a faculty advisor is also required for each student organization.

Date of Adoption: January 23, 1996

**#5190
Crisis Response**

The Madison Public Schools' students have a basic need for security and safety. Therefore, the Board of Education is committed to averting and resolving crises that may occur and may involve students, faculty, staff, or the total school community. Through its educational programs, student assistance teams, student support personnel, and various strategies and mechanisms, the school system will strive to prevent crisis situations and to prepare its community members to address crises as they occur, and address circumstances that may pose the threat of crisis.

The Board of Education and administration acknowledge the necessity to prepare a Crisis Management Plan to address crises should they occur. It should be the intent of the Crisis Management Plan to provide (1) primary prevention strategies to prevent a crisis situation from occurring, (2) secondary prevention strategies to deal with the immediate aftermath, and (3) tertiary prevention strategies which provide long term follow-up for those affected by the crisis.

Rules and regulations for implementation of this policy are to be included in the district's *Crisis Management Plan, 1998*.

Legal References: Connecticut General Statutes
10-221 (e) Boards of education to prescribe rules.

Date of Adoption: March 23, 1999