

Freedom of Speech/Expression

The Governing Board believes that free inquiry and exchange of ideas are essential parts of a democratic education. The Board respects students' rights to express ideas and opinions, take stands on issues, and support causes, even when such speech is controversial or unpopular.

Students shall have the right to exercise freedom of speech and of the press including, but not limited to, the use of bulletin boards; the distribution of printed materials or petitions; the wearing of buttons, badges, and other insignia; and the right of expression in official publications. (Education Code 48907)

Students' freedom of expression shall be limited only as allowed by Education Code 48907, 48950, and other applicable state and federal laws.

Students are prohibited from making any expressions or distributing or posting any materials that are obscene, libelous, or slanderous. Students also are prohibited from making any expressions that so incites students as to create a clear and present danger of the commission of unlawful acts on school premises, the violation of school rules, or substantial disruption of the school's orderly operation. (Education Code 48907)

The use of derogatory language or epithets is prohibited in those instances where the speech is abusive and insulting, rather than a communication of ideas, and the speech is used in an abusive manner in a situation that presents an actual danger that it will cause a breach of the peace.

*Legal Reference:**EDUCATION CODE**48907 Exercise of free expression; rules and regulations**48950 Speech and other communication**51520 Prohibited solicitations on school premises**UNITED STATES CODE, TITLE 20**4071-4074 Equal Access Act**CALIFORNIA CONSTITUTION**Article 1, Section 2 Freedom of speech and expression**U.S. CONSTITUTION**Amendment 1 Freedom of speech and expression*

Policy

HUMBOLDT COUNTY OFFICE OF EDUCATION

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Eureka, California

Revised: June 8, 2011