

**STUDENTS**

**BP 5210 Student Freedom of Speech and Expression**

The process of educating students for responsible citizenship in a democratic society requires reasonable opportunity for them to exercise the rights of free speech and expression in the context of the public school environment. The purpose of this policy is to insure the exercise of these rights with due regard to the rights of others and the need for reasonable restrictions in the operation of the public school system.

Students in the schools maintained by the County Superintendent of Schools have the right to exercise free expression, including, but not limited to, the use of bulletin boards, the distribution of printed materials or petitions, and the wearing of buttons, badges, and other insignia, provided that such material is not designed to promote unlawful behavior or materially and substantially interfere with school order or discipline.

The distribution of petitions, circulars, leaflets, newspapers, and other printed material should be limited to times and places that will not interfere with regular school activities. Additionally, distribution should be in a manner such that: (a) coercion is not used to induce students to accept the printed matter or to sign petitions, (b) funds or donations are not collected for the material distributed, (c) leaflets and printed material to be distributed shall be submitted to the appropriate school official prior to such distribution, and (d) materials for distribution are not left undistributed or stacked for pick-up while unattended at any place in the school or on school grounds.

Legal Reference: E.C. §§ 48907, 48950

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Second Reading: April 4, 2000

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