

# Downey Unified School District

## INSTRUCTION

### SCHOOL PUBLICATIONS

AR 3128

School publications, as a part of the total education program, are representative of the institution they serve. They are the products of the combined efforts, talents, and contributions of students, teachers, and school administrators, and as such reflect the views, opinions, and concerns of the entire school community. They should stimulate interest in school events and promote school pride and school spirit, as well as serve as a means of communication between students and faculty and between the school and the larger community.

School publications shall be guided and shall include but not necessarily be limited to the following editorial policies:

1. Shall be free of profanity, vulgarity, and words which have acquired undesirable meanings.
2. Shall contain no matter reflecting adversely upon anyone because of his/her disability, gender, nationality, race or ethnicity, religion, sexual orientation, or any other characteristic contained in the definition of hate crimes.
3. Shall show no disrespect for the institutions or the generally accepted mores of society.
4. Shall not advocate illegal acts of any kind including the use of illegal drugs.
5. Shall not imply approval of the use of tobacco or liquor by high school students.
6. Shall avoid editorial material which implies that cheating is an acceptable practice.
7. Shall avoid naming and publicizing students who run afoul of the law for any reason.
8. Expressions of opinion in an article on controversial subjects are encouraged but shall be clearly identified by means of a byline as the opinion of the writer only.

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9. Editors and staffs shall refrain from using the school newspaper for the promotion of personal or private interests. It is not to be used for publicizing their friends undeservedly, or to ridicule or disparage those who are not their friends.
10. The District shall assume responsibility for funding school newspapers.
11. Student editors of official school publications shall be responsible for assigning and editing the news, editorial, and feature content of their publications subject to the limitations of this regulation. However, it shall be the responsibility of the adviser of student publications within each school to supervise the production of the student staff, to maintain professional standards of English and journalism, and to maintain the provisions of this regulation.

Approved: 1/9/78, 3/13/12