
The Board of Education of Cherokee County recognizes student expression as an educational benefit of the school experience and encourages freedom of comment, both oral and written, with a degree of order conducive to proper learning.

One medium of expression is student journalism. Some student publications, such as yearbooks and school newspapers, may be developed as part of the curriculum to benefit primarily those who compile, edit, and publish them. Faculty advisers will be assigned to guide students who engaged in these activities. Any commercial advertisements in such publications will conform to Board regulations.

Students' First Amendment rights to freedom of expression and equal protection of the law will be observed in regard to student publications, whether school-sponsored or non-school sponsored. The observance of these rights must be balanced against the duty of educating students in an orderly manner to protect the rights of all.

Students may be required to submit publications for approval prior to distribution. When approval is required, school administrators must make available to students the standards which will be used in determining the grant or denial of permission. Such guidelines will be specific and will be directed toward ascertaining which publications will cause substantial disruption of, or material interference with, school activities or intrusions into school affairs or the lives of others. To be valid, these guidelines must prescribe a procedure for appeals from students.

Prior restraints will contain precise criteria, spelling out what is forbidden. A definite brief time limit will be set within which school officials must approve or disapprove distribution.

It will be the responsibility of the local school administrators to promulgate reasonable and specific regulations setting forth the time, manner, and place in which distribution of student publications may occur. Students who become subject to discipline for failure to comply with distribution rules will be granted procedural due process rights.

ADOPTED: August 2, 2001

Cherokee County Board of Education