

Communication with the Public

STUDENT EXPRESSION

The process of inquiry and the exchange of ideas is primary to education. This process requires that students have the right to express opinions, to take stands, and to support causes publicly or privately.

One of the basic purposes of education is to prepare students for responsible self-expression in a democratic society. The right to free speech and expression is guaranteed to residents of our democracy, citizens and non-citizens alike, by the First and Fourteenth amendments of the United States Constitution. School officials are charged with the responsibility to see that the exercise of these rights by students is free from arbitrary censorship.

Thus, it is essential that schools provide students effective avenues not only to participate in discussions in which points of view are explored, but also to question, to inquire, and to freely express ideas, including those that are controversial.

Broadly defined, freedom of speech and expression may take any of the forms by which individuals usually communicate, such as classroom discussions, debates, commencement speeches, leaflets, newspapers, magazines, pamphlets, and emblems.

The Superintendent of Schools will make all students and their families aware of the rights set forth in this rule.

Specific Authority: 230.22(2) F.S.

Law Implemented, Interpreted, or Made Specific: 230.22(5); 230.23(15) F.S.

History: THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA

Repromulgated: 12-11-74

Amended: 11-25-75; 10-5-94

Technical Change: 5-1-98