

# Infinity Charter School

**SECTION:** STUDENT POLICIES  
**TITLE:** STUDENT EXPRESSION  
**APPROVED:** December 6, 2007  
**REVISED:**

## 319. STUDENT EXPRESSION

### **PURPOSE:**

The Board respects the right of students to express themselves in word or symbol and to distribute materials as part of that expression, but recognizes that the exercise of that right must be limited by the need to maintain an orderly school environment and to protect the rights of all members of the school community. The Board recognizes that the right of public school students to freedom of speech is guaranteed by the United States Constitution and the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

### **AUTHORITY:**

Students shall have the right to express themselves unless the expression materially interferes with the educational process, threatens serious harm to the school or community, encourages unlawful activity or interferes with another individual's legal rights. The Board reserves the right to designate and prohibit manifestations of student expression which are not protected by the right of free expression because they violate the rights of others. Such expressions are those which:

1. Libel a specific person (s).
2. Seek to establish the supremacy of a particular religious denomination, sect or point of view.
3. Advocate the use or advertise the availability of any substance or material which may reasonably be believed to constitute a direct and substantial danger to the health of students.
4. Are obscene or contain material otherwise deemed harmful to impressionable students.
5. Incite violence, advocate the use of force, or urge the violation of law or school regulations.
6. Advertise goods or services for the benefit of profit-making organizations.
7. Solicit funds for non-school organizations or institutions when such solicitations have not been approved by the Board.

The Board reserves the right to halt the distribution of unprotected materials.

The Board shall require that distribution of printed materials take place only at the places and during the times set forth in the rules and regulations of this district in order that such distribution not interfere with the orderly operation of the schools.

**SPECIFIC RULES GOVERNING STUDENT EXPRESSION:**

Students may use publications, handbills, announcements, assemblies, group meetings buttons, armbands and other means of common communication, provided that the use of public school communications facilities shall be in accordance with the rules of the authority in charge of those facilities.

Students have the responsibility to obey laws governing libel and obscenity and to be aware of the full meaning of their expression.

Students have the responsibility to be aware of the feelings and opinions of others and to give others a fair opportunity to express their views.

Identification of the individual student or at least one responsible person in a student group may be required on posted or distributed materials.

School officials may require students to submit for prior approval a copy of materials to be displayed, posted or distributed on school property.

The Infinity CEO, with the Board's approval, may develop additional rules for the distribution of printed material which shall include:

1. Designation of the places at which and times during which material may be distributed.
2. The requirement that students who distribute printed materials shall be responsible for clearing any litter that results from the activity.
3. Disciplinary action for those students who distribute printed materials in contravention of this policy and the rules of the district or who continue the manifestation of unprotected expression after a person in authority orders that they desist.