

POLICY

Board of Education Las Cruces Public Schools

Related Entries: JICE-RA, JICEA, JJA, JICA, JICA-RA
Responsible Office: Chief Academic Officer

Freedom of Expression

I. PURPOSE

The district seeks to promote student expression as part of the inculcation of the values and habits necessary to the maintenance of a democratic political system. The primary liberties in a student's life concerns the process of inquiry and learning, of acquiring and imparting knowledge, and of exchanging ideas. This process requires that students have the right to express opinions, to take positions, and to support causes, publicly and privately.

II. POSITION

The non-disruptive expression of opinions by students in the public schools, or by non-students near the schools, is protected by the free-speech guarantees of the United States and New Mexico Constitutions. However, a student's right of expression may be restrained when, because of the time, place, or manner of the speech or expressive conduct, it infringes on the schools' compelling interest in maintaining an undisrupted learning environment.

The district will not, however, tolerate student expression that is inconsistent with the district's basic education mission, even though such expression by members of the public could not be censored by government outside the school s context. The district may limit certain student expression as provided below:

III. LIMITATIONS

In imposing limitations on student expression for any reason under any of the foregoing provisions, the school must ensure that its rules are applied on a non-discriminatory basis and in a manner designed to promote appropriate freedom of expression to students, within the limits designed by board policy.

IV. REVIEW AND REPORTING

This policy will be reviewed in accordance with the Board of Education policy review process.

Legal Reference: Equal Access Act, 20 USC ss4071-4074
Policy History: Formerly Policy 354 – 354.2, Revised 6.20.06



Board of Education, President

June 20, 2006

Date