

STUDENT SELF-EXPRESSION

Students have a right to express themselves on school property and at school functions through speech or expressive actions, provided the expression will not materially and substantially interfere with the orderly operation of the school and the rights of others.

This policy prohibits self-expression that:

- A. Is obscene, vulgar, or profane, or harms the reputation of others.
- B. Violates federal, state, or local laws.
- C. Advocates the use or availability of tobacco, alcohol, or illegal drugs.
- D. Incites violence.
- E. Interferes with or advocates interference with the orderly operation of the schools.

It is the determination of the School Committee that flags, symbols, lettering, or insignia associated with organizations or movements that promote hatred or violence or that support white supremacy, such as Confederate symbolism and the swastika, or that denigrate others on the basis of race, color, sex, sexual orientation, gender expression, gender identity, physical or mental disability, religion, age, ancestry, national origin, or genetic information, materially and substantially interfere with the orderly operation of our schools. Therefore, such flags, symbols, lettering or insignia are prohibited on school property or at school functions. Flags, symbols, lettering, or insignia covered by this policy may be allowed in approved learning or library materials, or in a classroom setting (e.g., a history class discussion of the Civil War or World War II), as part of a learning assignment supervised by a teacher.

The Superintendent is responsible for the development of any administrative procedures necessary to implement this policy.

Cross Reference: JICA – Student Dress

ADOPTED: August 19, 2020

