

Student Rights and Responsibilities

Students shall be given every opportunity to participate in the school and the community with rights and responsibilities analogous to those of adult citizens, e.g., freedom of expression, of assembly, of petition and of conscience and the rights of due process and equal treatment.

It shall be the responsibility of the staff and administration of the respective schools to provide students with advice, counsel and supervision that shall maintain and encourage the freedom of student expression and assembly while simultaneously reinforcing a sense of responsibility and good citizenship with the awareness of the excesses into which immaturity might lead.

It shall be the responsibility of the staff and administration of the respective schools to decide when a situation requires a limit on freedom for the purpose of protecting the students and the school from harsh consequences. This responsibility should not be exercised for the purpose of eliminating legitimate controversy and legitimate freedom but should be guided by the following principles.

1. A recognition that freedom implies the right to make mistakes and that students must therefore sometimes be permitted to act in ways which are predictably unwise so long as the consequences of their acts are not dangerous to life and property and do not seriously disrupt the academic process.
2. A recognition that students in their schools should have the right to live under the principle of "rule by law" as opposed to "rule by personality." To protect this right, rules should be in writing. Students have the right to know the extent and limits of the staff and administration's authority and therefore the rights that are reserved for the students and the responsibilities that they should accept. Students' rights should not be compromised by staff and administration who while ostensibly acting as consultants or counselors are in fact exercising authority to censor student expression and inquiry.
3. A recognition that deviation from the opinions and standards deemed desirable by the staff and administration is not necessarily a danger to the educational process.

Adopted September 8, 1971
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CROSS REFS.: IB, Academic Freedom
IMB, Teaching about Controversial/Sensitive Issues
JICEA, School-Related Student Publications
JK, Student Discipline, and Subcodes

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