

**Student Expression  
of Religious  
Viewpoints**

The District shall treat a student's voluntary expression of a religious viewpoint, if any, on an otherwise permissible subject in the same manner the District treats a student's voluntary expression of a secular or other viewpoint on an otherwise permissible subject and may not discriminate against the student based on a religious viewpoint expressed by the student on an otherwise permissible subject.

Nothing in this policy is intended to aid, abet, command, counsel, induce, order, or procure school-organized or officially sanctioned religious activity. Permitting students to speak from a religious viewpoint at the events identified in this policy signifies neither approval nor disapproval of that speech; it does signify the District's constitutional duty to tolerate genuinely student-initiated religious expression.

This policy is created in conformity with current federal law on the issue of student expression and is intended to allow District students who, on their own initiative, voluntarily seek to express their views on issues of significance. Such speech is not required by the District and will only be broadcast if such speech is requested by a student.

**Student Speakers at  
Nongraduation  
Events**

The District hereby creates a limited public forum for student speakers at all school events at which a student is to publicly speak. For each speaker, the District shall set a maximum time limit reasonable and appropriate to the occasion.

**Introductory  
Speakers**

Student speakers shall introduce varsity home football games.

The forum shall be limited in the manner provided by this section on nongraduation events.

**Eligibility and  
Selection**

Students are eligible to be selected to introduce school events covered by this policy if they:

1. Are in the highest two grade levels of the high school,
2. Volunteer to speak, and
3. Are not in a disciplinary placement or suspended from any extracurricular activity at the time of the speaking event.

An eligible student shall be notified of the student's eligibility, and a student who wishes to participate as an introducing speaker shall submit the student's name to the high school principal or designee during an announced period of not less than three days.

STUDENT RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES  
STUDENT EXPRESSION

FNA  
(LOCAL)

Assignment of Introductory Speakers	<p>The announced period shall occur at the beginning of the year during football season. The names of the volunteering student speakers shall be randomly drawn until all names have been selected, and the names shall be listed in the order drawn.</p> <p>Each selected student shall be matched chronologically to the single event for which the student shall give the introduction. The list of student speakers shall be chronologically repeated as needed, in the same order. If no students volunteer or if the selected speaker declines or becomes ineligible and there are no other eligible students, no student introduction will be made at the event.</p> <p>Any student who, subsequent to being listed as an eligible student under this policy, engages in any act of misconduct that results in disciplinary placement or suspension from participation in an extra-curricular activity for a period of time in excess of three school days shall be removed from the list of eligible speakers for the remainder of the school year, and the list matching students to the events to be introduced will be adjusted accordingly.</p>
Content of Student Introductions	<p>The subject of the student introductions shall relate to the purpose of introducing the designated event. The student must stay on the subject. The student may not engage in speech that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Is obscene, vulgar, offensively lewd, or indecent;</li><li>• Creates reasonable cause to believe that the speech would result in material and substantial interference with school activities or the rights of others;</li><li>• Promotes the illegal use of drugs, alcohol, or other controlled substances;</li><li>• Violates the intellectual property rights, privacy rights, or other rights of another person;</li><li>• Contains defamatory statements about others; or</li><li>• Advocates imminent lawless action and is likely to incite or produce such action.</li></ul> <p>The District shall treat a student's voluntary expression of a religious viewpoint, if any, on an otherwise permissible subject in the same manner the District treats a student's voluntary expression of a secular or other viewpoint on an otherwise permissible subject and shall not discriminate against the student based on a religious viewpoint expressed by the student on an otherwise permissible subject.</p> <p>Use of the District's public announcement system or speaking system by students at events covered by this policy is not considered</p>

to be District sponsorship, but is incidental to the private speech of the student.

Disclaimer

For as long as there is a need to dispel confusion over the non-sponsorship of the student's speech, at each event in which a student shall deliver an introduction, a disclaimer shall be stated in written or oral form, or both, such as, "The student giving the introduction for this event is a volunteering student selected on neutral criteria to introduce the event. The content of the introduction is the private expression of the student and does not reflect the endorsement, sponsorship, position, or expression of the District." When given orally, the disclaimer shall be delivered by a District employee attending the event, using the same speaking equipment to be used by the student introducing the event.

**Other Student  
Speakers**

Certain students who have attained special positions of honor in the school have traditionally addressed school audiences from time to time as a tangential component of their achieved positions of honor, such as the captains of various sports teams, student council officers, class officers, homecoming kings and queens, prom kings and queens, and the like, and have attained their positions based on neutral criteria. Nothing in this policy eliminates the continuation of the practice of having these students, irrespective of grade level, address school audiences in the normal course of their respective positions.

The District shall create a limited public forum for the speakers and shall treat a student's voluntary expression of a religious viewpoint, if any, on an otherwise permissible subject in the same manner the District treats a student's voluntary expression of a secular or other viewpoint on an otherwise permissible subject and may not discriminate against the student based on a religious viewpoint expressed by the student on an otherwise permissible subject.

**Student Speakers at  
Graduation  
Ceremonies**

Opening and  
Closing Remarks

The District hereby creates a limited public forum consisting of an opportunity for a student to speak to begin graduation ceremonies and another student to speak to end graduation ceremonies. For each speaker, the District shall set a maximum time limit reasonable and appropriate to the occasion.

The forum shall be limited in the manner provided by this section on student speakers at graduation. [See also FMH(LEGAL)]

Eligibility

Only students who are graduating and who hold one of the following neutral criteria positions of honor shall be eligible to use the limited public forum: class officers of the graduating class and the three highest academically ranked graduates.

A student who shall otherwise have a speaking role in the graduation ceremonies is ineligible to give the opening and closing remarks. The names of the eligible volunteering students shall be randomly drawn. The first name drawn shall give the opening and the second name drawn shall give the closing. Students who are eligible shall be notified and given an opportunity to volunteer. Students are not eligible to volunteer if they were in a disciplinary placement during any part of the spring semester.

Content of Opening  
and Closing  
Remarks

The topic of the opening and closing remarks must be related to the purpose of the graduation ceremony and to the purpose of marking the opening and closing of the event; honoring the occasion, the participants, and those in attendance; bringing the audience to order; and focusing the audience on the purpose of the event.

**Other Student  
Graduation Speakers**

In addition to the students giving the opening and closing remarks, the valedictorian and the salutatorian may have speaking roles at graduation ceremonies.

For each speaker, the District shall set a maximum time limit reasonable and appropriate to the occasion and to the position held by the speaker. For this purpose, the District creates a limited public forum for these students to deliver the addresses. The subject of the addresses must be related to the purpose of the graduation ceremony, marking and honoring the occasion, honoring the participants and those in attendance, and the student's perspective on purpose, achievement, life, school, graduation, and looking forward to the future.

The student shall stay on the subject, and the student shall not engage in speech that:

- Is obscene, vulgar, offensively lewd, or indecent;
- Creates reasonable cause to believe that the speech would result in material and substantial interference with school activities or the rights of others;
- Promotes the illegal use of drugs, alcohol, or other controlled substances;
- Violates the intellectual property rights, privacy rights, or other rights of another person;
- Contains defamatory statements about others; or
- Advocates imminent lawless action and is likely to incite or produce such action.

The District shall treat a student's voluntary expression of a religious viewpoint, if any, on an otherwise permissible subject in the same manner the District treats a student's voluntary expression of a secular or other viewpoint on an otherwise permissible subject and may not discriminate against the student based on a religious viewpoint expressed by the student on an otherwise permissible subject.

**Disclaimer**

A written disclaimer shall be printed in the graduation program that states, "The students who shall be speaking at the graduation ceremony were selected based on neutral criteria to deliver messages of the students' own choices. The content of and any views expressed during each student speaker's message is solely and entirely the private expression of the individual student and does not reflect the endorsement, sponsorship, position, or expression of the District."

The same disclaimer shall be delivered orally by a District employee at the beginning of the graduation ceremony, using the same speaking equipment to be used by the student introducing the event.

**Religious  
Expression in Class  
Assignments**

Students may express the students' beliefs about religion in homework, artwork, and other written and oral assignments free from discrimination based on the religious content of the students' submission. Homework and classroom work shall be judged by ordinary academic standards of substance and relevance and against other legitimate pedagogical concerns identified by the school. Students may not be penalized or rewarded on account of religious content. If a teacher's assignment involves writing a poem, the work of a student who submits a poem in the form of a prayer (for example, a psalm) should be judged on the basis of academic standards, including literary quality, and not penalized or rewarded on account of its religious content.

**Freedom to Organize  
Religious Groups  
and Activities**

Students may organize prayer groups, religious clubs, "see you at the pole" gatherings, and other religious gatherings before, during, and after school to the same extent that students are permitted to organize other noncurricular student activities and groups. [See FNAB(LOCAL)] Religious groups must be given the same access to school facilities for assembling as is given to other noncurricular groups, without discrimination based on the religious content of the group's expression. If student groups that meet for nonreligious activities are permitted to advertise or announce the groups' meetings, for example, by advertising in a student newspaper, putting up posters, making announcements on a student activities bulletin board or public address system, or handing out leaflets, school authorities may not discriminate against groups that meet for prayer

or other religious speech. School authorities may disclaim sponsorship of noncurricular groups and events, provided they administer the disclaimer in a manner that does not favor or disfavor groups that meet to engage in prayer or other religious speech.