

# NORTH BRANFORD BOARD OF EDUCATION

**SERIES 1000: STUDENTS**

**P1320**

## **FREEDOM OF SPEECH/EXPRESSION**

It is the policy of the North Branford Board of Education to recognize and protect the rights of student expression. The Board will maintain a balance of these rights with the interests of an orderly and efficient educational process and of a school environment suitable for the healthy growth and development of all students.

The Board of Education shall assume no responsibility for the contents of any written material produced, posted, circulated or otherwise distributed by students.

In order to protect the educational process and school environment, printed material displayed, produced or distributed on school property or at school sponsored activities, shall:

Not disrupt or threaten to disrupt the educational process of the school;

Not contain libelous or obscene language;

Not advocate illegal actions;

Not contain false statements or innuendoes that would subject any person to hatred, ridicule, contempt or injury of reputation;

Not advocate action that would endanger the health or safety of students, staff or others;

Not invade the lawful rights of others, including protections against libelous or slanderous statements; and

Bear the names of the student(s) principally involved in the promotion of such material and, when applicable, the name of the sponsoring student organization or group.

Legal Reference: First Amendment to U.S. Constitution  
Connecticut Constitution, Article First, Declaration of Rights, Sections 4,5  
Tinker v. Des Moines Independent Community School District, 393 U.S. 503 (1969)

Grayned v. City of Rockford, 408 U.S. 104 (1972)  
Academic Freedom Policy (adopted by Connecticut State  
Board of Education, 9/9/81)

**Policy Adopted: 2/20/03**