

Constitutional Rights Foundation Chicago

Sample Student Speech Policy Statements in light of *Morse v. Frederick*

Policy 1

School officials recognize the limited rights of students to express themselves on school property and at all school functions and activities as long as consistent with district rules and policies. Prohibited activities include, but are not limited to, threats, vulgar, lewd, profane, hateful, or offensive expressions or behavior or any action that disrupts school activities or environment or impinges on the right and privacy of others. Violators will be subject to immediate disciplinary action(s).

Policy 2

School officials will not permit display of messages promoting illegal substances and student expression in whatever form that is threatening, disruptive or can be reasonably forecasted to result in substantial disruption, by its vulgar, lewd or offensive manner to the objectives of the academic setting or school monitored events.

Policy 3

While recognizing that students retain their right to expression on matters of public concern, student speech in a school-sponsored forum which encourages illegal substance use, or can be reasonably identified as vulgar, lewd or plainly offensive is prohibited. Speech which creates a threatening school environment for other students or staff members is also prohibited. Any speech, including symbolic speech or pranks, which is substantially disruptive, is prohibited in any school-sponsored forum.

Policy 4

In our academic institutions we wish to uphold and affirm our students' freedom of expression. To promote a safe environment conducive to learning, the school district has the obligation to protect students from expression that advocates illegal activity or is vulgar, offensive, threatening or disruptive. Students who violate this policy will be subject to disciplinary action.