# GREENWICH STOW CREEK PARTNERSHIP SCHOOLS file code: 6145.3

## POLICY MANUAL

### Regulation

STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

Official school publications shall reflect the judgment of the faculty sponsors and student editors. Faculty sponsors and student editors shall be governed by the standards of responsible journalism and avoid the publication of any materials that are libelous or obscene or contain defamations, false statements, content advocating violation of laws and racial or religious prejudice. The following operating procedures shall apply to all school publications.

Code of Ethics for School Publications

1. Administration:
2. The chief school administrator shall have final authority over all school publications;
3. The chief school administrator may delegate authority to the faculty sponsor(s) oversee publications. The sponsor shall have the responsibility to ensure that the publications under his or her control adhere to the letter and spirit of this code. When in doubt about the propriety of any specific article or issue, he or she shall consult the chief school administrator for final decision;
4. The sponsor may delegate authority to student editors. Student editors shall ensure adherence to this code and be held accountable by the sponsor;
5. It is incumbent upon student editors to understand in full the provisions of this code. They can assume the editorship only when they have subscribed completely to the principles and provisions of this code in word and practice;
6. Repeated failure of the editors to follow the principles and provisions of this code will constitute grounds for dismissal from the publication staff.
7. Specific provisions governing all school publications:
8. The stories and articles shall not contain any language that is profane, obscene, offensive or suggestive;
9. The stories and articles shall not deal with any subject that by its nature would offend the taste and sensibilities of the community;
10. No individual student or faculty member may ever be singled out for censure, criticism or ridicule in a school publication;
11. No group of individuals may similarly be identified in print for such censure, criticism or ridicule in a school publication, although positive suggestions may be made in editorial columns or letters for the improvement of such organizations;
12. No protected class, religious, racial or national group shall be ridiculed by statement or innuendo in the school publications;
13. As a matter of courtesy and as a guarantee of accuracy, all news stories concerning a faculty member shall be cleared with that faculty member;
14. All stories dealing with a school organization shall be cleared with the sponsor of that organization; and
15. No article may covertly or overtly advocate the overthrow of our democratic system of government.
16. Specific provisions regarding special kinds of writing:
17. Editorials are always unsigned and as a matter of newspaper tradition reflect the opinions of the entire editorial staff not one individual. They may make constructive suggestions for improvement, although they should do so in a positive fashion and must not hold up to ridicule, censure, or criticism any group or individual;
18. The school newspaper shall not indulge in political controversy, or support any one political party;
19. Columns of opinion (sports opinion, editorial opinion, literacy opinion, etc.) represent the thinking of one individual; as such, they must always be signed with the proper name of the student-author. The column writer shall be held personally responsible for such opinions and must conform in all particulars with the provisions of this code;
20. No individual may ever be singled out for condemnation or criticism in reviews of student performances (in sports, shows, etc.). Negative comment can have a deleterious effect on team or group achievement;
21. Student letters to the editor may be published only after the student editor has checked their authenticity and only when they are signed by the senders’ name, and conform in full to the provisions of this code.

**Greenwich:**

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NJSBA Review/Update: July 2022

Readopted:

**Stow Creek:**

Adopted: May 19, 2008

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Readopted: