



ARE YOUR SCHOOL'S MEDIA PUBLIC FORUMS?

The Center for Scholastic Journalism at Kent State University has created an interactive map to showcase schools where student press freedom and editorial independence are protected. We want your school on our map!

Forums can exist by policy, practice or both.

PUBLIC FORUMS BY POLICY: An official school policy exists that designates student editors, within clearly defined limitations (libel, obscenity, etc.), as the ultimate authority for determining content. (A publication's own editorial policy does not count as an official school policy unless some school official has formally endorsed it.) School officials actually practice this policy by exercising a "hands-

off" role and empowering student editors to lead. Advisers teach and offer students advice, but they neither control nor make final decisions regarding content.

PUBLIC FORUMS BY PRACTICE: A school policy may or may not exist regarding student media, but administrators have a "hands-off" approach and have empowered students to control content decisions. For some period of time, there has been no act of censorship by school officials and there is no required prior approval of content by a school administrator. Advisers teach and offer students advice, but they neither control nor make final decisions regarding content.

► What type of forum do you believe your student media are?

Policy Practice Both

NAME: _____

POSITION: _____

SCHOOL: _____

TYPE OF SCHOOL: PUBLIC PRIVATE

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____

PHONE: _____

E-MAIL: _____

ADVISER NAME: _____

PUBLICATION & MEDIA OUTLET NAME(S): _____

PUBLICATION'S & MEDIA OUTLET'S WEB SITE (IF APPLICABLE): _____

► Types of student media covered by the policy (If you have a different forum status for different media at your school, fill out separate forms for each; if the forum status is the same, you can use one form):

- newspaper/news magazine
- yearbook
- video/broadcast
- news Web site
- literary magazine

► Does an official school policy exist governing student publications? This is a policy that is officially adopted by the school's governing body and appears in the school's codebook. This does not refer to a publication's internal editorial policy. (You MUST include a copy of the school's policy to be considered.)

- Yes
- No
- Unsure

► If so, to whom does it grant ultimate control of the publication's content?

- Students
- Adviser
- Administration/school board
- Other (Please indicate)

▶ If the policy grants control to students, briefly describe how that status was achieved if you know how it was. For instance, was it the result of a student campaign or the result of a censorship dispute with administrators?

▶ When was this policy established? Be as specific as you are able.

▶ If administrators endorse a "hands-off" approach toward student media, how long has that practice been in place? Be as specific as you are able.

▶ Does the publication have either a statement in its internal staff policy or one printed in the publication/medium that declares who has the ultimate authority regarding the publication's content? (You MUST submit a copy of that statement to be considered for this designation.)

- Yes
- No

▶ If so, to whom does it grant ultimate control of the publication's content?

- Students
- Adviser
- Administration/school board
- Other

▶ Does anyone outside the publication staff prior review the content before publication?

- Yes
- No

▶ If yes, who prior reviews it?

- Adviser (to make final decisions, not to coach or offer suggestions for improvement)
- Department Head
- Principal
- Assistant Principal
- Other (please specify)

▶ If prior review takes place, is it required by the school administration?

- Yes
- No

▶ How long has the current adviser held his/her position as adviser?

▶ What is the highest level of journalistic training he/she possesses?

- Workshops about journalism and advising
- ASNE High School Journalism Institute
- Professional experience
- Minor in journalism and/or advising (about 24 credit hours)
- Bachelor's degree in journalism and/or advising
- Master's degree in journalism and/or advising
- Other (please specify)

▶ Is the publication a member of a scholastic press association?

- Yes
- No

▶ If yes, which one(s)?

- CSPA
- NSPA
- QUILL AND SCROLL
- STATE ASSOCIATION
- REGIONAL ASSOCIATION
- Other (please specify)

▶ Please check all professional organizations with which the adviser is affiliated.

- JEA
- STATE ASSOCIATION
- REGIONAL ASSOCIATION
- Other (please specify)

▶ Are you willing to talk with other student journalists and advisers about your public forum status?

- Yes
- No