

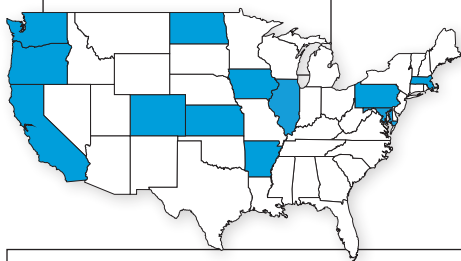
First Amendment Rights of Public High School Student Journalists

An SPLC guide to determining if an act of censorship by school officials is legal

BEGIN HERE

Do you live in ... ?

- Arkansas
- California
- Colorado
- District of Columbia
- Illinois
- Iowa
- Kansas
- Maryland
- Massachusetts
- North Dakota
- Oregon
- Pennsylvania



NO

YES

Can the publication be considered "**school-sponsored**" — has the school lent its name and resources to the publication?

NO

YES

Can the publication be described as a **part of the school curriculum** — was it created by the school to impart particular skills to students and is it supervised by a faculty member, even if it is produced outside the classroom setting?

NO

YES

Has the publication, by either school policy or practice, been created as a "**public forum**" or a "designated public forum" for student expression where students have been given the authority to make the content decisions?

YES

NO

THE TINKER STANDARD

Can school officials show that their censorship is based on a reasonable expectation that the content would cause a **material and substantial disruption** of school activities or an invasion of the rights of others?



YES

NO

Censorship likely permitted

Censorship likely NOT permitted

THE HAZELWOOD STANDARD

Can school officials show that they have a **valid educational purpose** for their censorship and that the censorship is not intended to silence a particular viewpoint that they disagree with or that is unpopular?

YES

NO

Censorship likely permitted

Censorship likely NOT permitted



For advice on what to do next, or if you have further questions about your legal rights as a student journalist or media adviser, contact the Student Press Law Center:

(202) 785-5450 • www.splc.org