



STUDENT JOURNALISTS ARE PRESS

Staff members of student news media are student journalists, credentialed for the purposes of recording and reporting events and issues of public importance. They provide an Essential Service as members of the media.

Student journalists adhere to the same legal and ethical requirements as professional journalists, are overseen by editors and advisers, and produce publicly-available, bylined work for their established student publication. Student journalists are members of the news media and as such should receive the same treatment from law enforcement as commercial journalists.

This includes, but is not limited to:

- Ability to collect and report the news, including the video and audio recording of public events and interviewing of witnesses;
- Access to publicly available documents and/or records and meetings;
- Exemption from orders to disperse when such exemptions are made for news media generally;
- Information about and the ability to access any designated press area;
- Protection from seizure of work product or documentary materials in accordance with the Privacy Protection Act of 1980 and similar state laws; and
- Exemption from any curfew during which news media is also exempt.

Student journalists understand and appreciate their responsibilities while covering controversial or complex situations. They take seriously their responsibility to provide a fair and accurate accounting of this event, and to do so safely. The Student Press Law Center urges you to allow student journalists to continue their reporting and to clarify any concerns with them and their adviser as appropriate at a later date.

The Student Press Law Center is an independent, non-partisan 501c(3) which works to promote, support and defend the First Amendment and press freedom rights of high school and college journalists and their advisers. The SPLC provides information, training and legal assistance at no charge to student journalists and the educators who work with them.

1608 Rhode Island Ave. NW Suite 211 Washington, DC 20036
202-785-5450 splc.org