


Bridges Charter School 	Board Policy- <h2 style="text-align: center;">Student Freedom of Speech</h2>		
Policy Number: <h3 style="text-align: center;">BP 5145.2</h3>	Adopted: <h3 style="text-align: center;">04/20/21</h3>	Revised:	Replaced:

PURPOSE:

The Board of Directors (“Board”) recognizes the right of students to exercise freedom of speech and of the press as protected by federal and state law and stipulated by guidelines set forth in the education Code of the State of California.

SCOPE:

This policy applies to all BRIDGES students and personnel participating in activities that fall within the guidelines specified in this policy.

GENERAL POLICY STATEMENT:

The Board and BRIDGES personnel shall comply with all applicable provisions of the SB 438. Effective January 1, 2011, California charter schools must comply with long standing Education Code Sections 48907 which generally afford free speech and press rights to students, subject to reasonable time, place and manner restrictions.

POLICY DETAILS:

1. BRIDGES will comply with applicable provisions of Section 48907 as described below:
 - 1.1. Free Speech Rights: Pupils of charter schools shall have the right to exercise freedom of speech and of the press, including the use of bulletin boards, distribution of printed material or petitions, the wearing of buttons, badges and other insignia, and the right of expression in official publications. Specific exceptions to these rights include speech which is:
 - 1.1.1. obscene, libelous or slanderous,
 - 1.1.2. a clear and present danger of the commission of unlawful acts or violation of school regulations,
 - 1.1.3. a substantial disruption to the orderly operation of the school; and
 - 1.2. Written Publications Code: Official School Publications shall be coordinated by defined school employees who will define reasonable provisions for the time, place, and manner for such activities. There shall be no prior restraint of material prepared for Official School Publications except in so far as it violates this policy.
 - 1.2.1. Official School Publications refers to material produced by pupils in the journalism, newspaper, yearbook, or writing classes and distributed to the student body either free or for a fee.
 - 1.3. Responsibility Remains With Journalism/Yearbook Advisers:
 - 1.3.1. Pupil editors of official school publications shall be responsible for

assigning and editing the news, editorial, and feature content of their publications subject to the limitations of this policy.

1.3.2. It shall be the ultimate responsibility of journalism/yearbook advisers (school employees) to supervise the production of the pupil staff, to maintain professional standards of English and journalism, and to maintain the provisions of this policy.

1.4. This policy does not prohibit or prevent BRIDGES from adopting otherwise valid rules and regulations related to oral communications by pupils on the premises of the school.

1.5. An employee shall not be disciplined or otherwise retaliated against solely for acting to protect a pupil engaged in the conduct authorized in this policy.

NON-COMPLIANCE TO POLICY:

Violations of this policy may result in the employee being subject to disciplinary action in accordance with Board disciplinary policy and administrative regulations.

GOVERNANCE:

The Director or designee will own primary responsibility for monitoring adherence to the policy.