

STUDENT SPEAKERS AT SCHOOL EVENTS

I. Creation of a Limited Public Forum for Student Speakers.

The school district hereby creates a limited public forum for student speakers at all school events at which a student is to publicly speak. For each speaker, the district shall set a maximum time limit reasonable and appropriate to the occasion. Student speakers shall introduce:

- (a) Football games;
- (b) Any other athletic events designated by the district; and
- (c) Any additional events designated by the district, which may include, without limitation, assemblies and pep rallies.

The forum shall be limited in the manner described below.

II. Criteria for Participation of Students in Limited Public Forum.

[NOTE: The following are several options that a school district may adopt that establish neutral criteria for students to participate in the forum. Your district may use one of the following, a mixture of them, or other criteria as long as the criteria used are neutral.]

-- OPTION 1 --

Only those students in the highest two (2) grade levels of the school and who hold one (1) of the following positions of honor based on neutral criteria are eligible to use the limited public forum: student council officers, class officers of the highest two (2) grade levels in the school, captains of school athletic teams, presidents of student clubs, and other students holding positions of honor as the school district may designate. Any disciplinary violations by a student will result in the student becoming immediately ineligible to participate in the limited public forum.

-- OPTION 2 --

Only those students in the highest two (2) grade levels of the school and who (i) have attained at least a 3.0 grade point average at the time established by the school in Section III below for students to register to participate in the limited public forum and (ii) do not have any disciplinary violations are eligible to use the limited public forum.

-- OPTION 3 --

Only the officers of recognized student clubs or organizations are eligible to use the limited public forum. Any disciplinary violations by a student will result in the student becoming immediately ineligible to participate in the limited public forum.

III. Selection of Student for Participation in the Limited Public Forum.

A student who wishes to participate as an introductory speaker shall submit the student's name and proof of eligibility as described above to the principal's office during an announced period of not less than five (5) days. The announced period may be at the beginning of the school year, at the end of the preceding school year so student speakers are in place for the new year, or, if the selection process will be repeated each semester, at the beginning of each semester or at the end of the preceding semester so speakers are in place for the next semester. The names of the volunteering student speakers shall be randomly drawn until all names have been selected, and the names shall be listed in the order drawn. Each selected student will be matched chronologically to the event for which the student will be giving the introduction. Each student may speak for one (1) week at a time for all introductions of events that week, or rotate after each speaking event, or otherwise as determined by the district. The list of student speakers shall be chronologically repeated as needed, in the same order. The district may repeat the announcement selection process each semester rather than once a year.

IV. Participation of Students in Special Positions of Honor.

Certain students who have attained special positions of honor in the school have traditionally addressed school audiences from time to time as a tangential component of their achieved positions of honor, such as the captains of various sports teams, student council officers, class officers, homecoming kings and queens, prom kings and queens, valedictorians and salutatorians, and the like. Such students have attained their positions based on neutral criteria. Nothing in this policy eliminates the continuation of the practice of having these students, irrespective of grade level, address school audiences in the normal course of their respective positions.

V. Subject Matter of the Introduction.

The subject of the student introductions must be related to the purpose of the event and to the purpose of marking the opening of the event, honoring the occasion, the participants, and those in attendance, bringing the audience to order, and focusing the audience on the purpose of the event. The student must speak on this subject, and the student may not engage in obscene, vulgar, offensively lewd or indecent speech.

VI. Expression of Religious Viewpoints by Students.

The school district shall treat a student's voluntary expression of a religious viewpoint, if any, on an otherwise permissible subject in the same manner the district treats a student's voluntary expression of a secular or other viewpoint on an otherwise permissible subject and may not discriminate against the student based on a religious viewpoint expressed by the student on an otherwise permissible subject.

VII. Disclaimer

If the school district believes there is a need to dispel confusion over the nonsponsorship of the student's speech at each event in which a student will deliver an introduction, a disclaimer may be given in written or oral form, or both, such as, "The student giving the introduction for this event is a volunteering student selected on neutral criteria to introduce the event. The content of the introduction is the private expression of the student and does not reflect the endorsement, sponsorship, position or expression of the school district."