

Title	: Guide to Student Publications	
Number	:	5900.01
Approved	:	02/20/25
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Reference	:	

Philosophy

The Graham County Community College District (GCCCD, the College, or EAC) accepts the concept that student publications involve adherence to professional standards. Freedom of the College Press becomes meaningful only when this press accepts certain responsibilities, as in the case with all mass media.

Recognizing this, EAC subscribes to the principles and aims codified by the News Leaders Association "ASNE Statement of Principles," the Associated Press Managing Editors "Code of Ethics" and the Society of Professional Journalists/Sigma Delta Chi "Code of Ethics".

EAC's publications are guided by the following policies, which are/may be supplemented by EAC administrative rules and regulations as reasonably required.

Purpose

The purpose of College publications is to provide laboratory classroom instruction in journalism and to emphasize the professional as well as the academic approach toward principles, rights, and obligations of a free press in a free society. Equally important purposes are (1) to provide the College with quality publications for informing students, faculty, and the community about College classes, programs, activities, and related issues; and (2) to provide opportunity for editorial comment and response by the readers.

Specific Policies

- A. Students participating in mass communication (publications) activities are to be instructed in their responsibilities and they are to be professionally advised.
- B. All EAC student publications are to observe the ordinary standards deemed appropriate for College mass media of a reportorial nature and are to be consistent with community definitions of decency, libel, or legality as exemplified by commercial publications of general circulation and operation in the GCCCD.
- C. Truth, accuracy, sincerity, and fairness are to prevail. It is the duty of the editorial staff, with the adviser as the authorized designee of the Vice President of Academic and Student Affairs and the College President, to be involved in and aware of selection of all editorial content.
- D. The College's student publications are to be used as part of a training laboratory in journalism classes. Editorial freedom of the College mass media shall be allowed within the limitations prescribed by District Governing Board Policy and/or good journalistic usage. The role assigned to the adviser is that of "publisher's representative." (Legally, the District Governing Board is the publisher and owner.) This regulation includes authority of the faculty adviser to exercise the right to disapprove materials with provision for the right to appeal in the following order:
 - 1. Vice President of Academic and Student Affairs
 - 2. College President
 - 3. District Governing Board
- E. College publications are not to subject individuals to personal attack in either news or editorial releases. This does not prohibit informed and responsible criticism of decisions, policies, or actions performed by an individual in their job performance, and nothing shall be construed as restricting the freedom of the publication in this respect. However, the writer of such criticism assumes personal responsibility for the accuracy of any assertion offered as fact and must accept the consequences of misstatements. All editorials must be signed or the speaker accurately identified.
- F. Private lives of students, faculty, administrators, and other persons are inviolate. The College mass media will neither champion nor attack individuals in any way in their capacity as private individuals, but will confine comment to their public performances, in conformity with the established principles of fair comment.



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- G. No editorials are to endorse political parties or candidates, including student body officers.
- H. The College mass communication media should present all materials with a standard of fairness which brings clarity to the events of the College community.

