

SEVEN GENERATIONS CHARTER SCHOOL	SECTION: STUDENTS
	TITLE: 220 – FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION
	ADOPTED: October 11, 2016
	REVISED:

Policy	<p>The Board of Trustees of Seven Generations Charter School (“Board”) respects the right of students to express themselves in word or symbol and to distribute materials as part of that expression but recognizes that the exercise of that right must be limited by the need to maintain an orderly school environment and to protect the rights of all members of the school community.</p> <p>Seven Generations Charter School (“SGCS” or “the School”) reserves the right to designate and prohibit manifestations of student expression that are not protected by the right of free expression because they violate the rights of others.</p> <p>The following guidelines for student expression are provided for SGCS students. Students shall not participate in any activity, individual or group, which violates one or more of the general limitations as stated below. The School assumes no responsibility for the contents of written matter posted, circulated, or distributed by students; or for any type of expression in connection with this policy.</p>
Delegation of Responsibility	<p>The Board of Trustees of Seven Generations Charter School authorizes the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) or his/her designee to enforce this policy</p>
Guidelines	<p>Distribution of Written Materials and Circulation of Petitions School authorities may prohibit the distribution or dissemination of student originated material on school grounds or school computer systems when such material would materially and substantially interrupt the educational process, intrude upon the rights of others, or negatively impact the school’s image.</p> <p>Only student-originated material may be approved for distribution on school property or school computer systems, providing it is not obscene, libelous, advocates illegal act(s), or is otherwise unprotected speech.</p> <p>Freedom of Assembly and Association A sound educational program must include the opportunity for students to draw independent conclusions based on their analysis of written and oral materials reflecting varying viewpoints. It must also include the opportunity for students to take stands and support causes, publicly or privately, orally or in writing.</p> <p>Students may organize associations within the school for lawful and education purposes, subject to the approval of the school leadership.</p> <p>No student organization may represent, overtly or by inference, that its views and activities are sanctioned by the school. Student organizations are not permitted to</p>

use the school name in outside activities unless prior permission is granted by school leadership in writing.

General Limitations

The Board further recognizes its responsibility in establishing reasonable limitations on the types of materials which may be made available to students on school premises in accordance with the statues of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and contemporary community standards.

Pupils may distribute written materials, circulate petitions, freely assemble and associate, provided that:

1. Interfering with appropriate discipline or school property or school-related functions is prohibited.
2. Distracting students, disrupting class work, or provoking disorder is prohibited.
3. The lawful rights of other persons shall not be invaded.
4. The normal operation of the school shall not be disrupted.
5. No obscenities are used; and no sexual or prurient themes are involved which may reasonably be expected to be harmful to the normal development of younger, impressionable, and less mature students.
6. False statements or innuendoes which may subject any person or group to hatred or ridicule, or that may be prejudicial, unfairly or unduly injurious to the reputation of any person or racial, religious or ethnic group or member thereof, are not used.
7. The use of any materials which may reasonably be believed to constitute a danger to the health of students is not advocated.
8. The violation of existing statutes, established laws, or official school policy is not advocated. Legitimate and constructive criticism for the purpose of redressing grievances is permitted.
9. Adhere to the policies set forth in the Internet Use Policy.

Violations of Policy

The time and place for the conduct of such activities may be restrained by school leadership to the extent that such restrictions are deemed necessary to prevent:

1. Interference with the normal education program or the normal flow of traffic within the school or on school premises.
2. Undue levels of noise.
3. The use of coercion or interference with any person.

Any violation by any student of the procedures of this policy or of rules or decisions pursuant to it, may subject the student to disciplinary action, including suspension or expulsion, in accordance with such procedures as may be provided by law and rules and regulations adopted by the Board of Trustees.