

228 STUDENT FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION

Oasis Academy shall be committed to encouraging, protecting, and ensuring the student right to exercise freedom of speech, press, and expression, subject to the laws of the land. Oasis Academy will recognize the intrinsic value of educating students in the reasonable exercise of these fundamental rights in order to become responsible citizens of the State of Nevada and the United States of America.

Free exercise of speech, press, and expression includes, but is not limited to:

1. The use of designated student bulletin boards;
2. The distribution of printed materials or petitions;
3. The performance of school assemblies, theatrical, and musical events;
4. Opinions and expressions in school-sponsored publications;
5. Student election campaigns; and
6. Student club activities.

The undifferentiated fear or apprehension of disturbance or the mere desire to avoid the discomfort associated with an unpopular viewpoint is not enough to restrain the student right to exercise free speech, press, and expression. Included in the students' right of free expression is the right to disclose or discuss their sexual orientation and issues related to sexual orientation.

Oasis Academy maintains the right to adopt reasonable provisions for the time, place, and manner of exercising freedom of speech, press, and expression activities. Such provisions include, but are not limited to, provisions for the screening of student publications prior to distribution to insure that distributed materials do not violate this policy.

No student shall be denied the right to exercise freedom of speech, press, and expression unless such speech, writing, or expression

1. Causes a substantial disruption of, or material interference with, school activities;
2. Infringes upon the rights, or endangers the health and welfare of others;
3. Is libelous or slanderous;
4. Is school sponsored and has no valid educational purpose; or
5. Incites students as to create a clear and present danger of the commission of unlawful acts on school premises or the violation of lawful school regulations.

If any dispute arises over the implementation of this policy by Oasis Academy, that dispute shall first be brought before the administrator. If the administrator does not resolve the dispute, the matter may be appealed to the governing body of Oasis Academy.

No expression made by students in the exercise of free speech, press, or expression shall be considered to be an expression of the school or its sponsor.