

**Santa Clarita Community College District  
POLICY MANUAL**

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528 STUDENT RIGHTS TO EXPRESSIVE ACTIVITIES

528.1

The process of educating students for responsible citizenship in a democratic society requires reasonable opportunity for students to exercise the rights of freedom of speech and expression in the context of the community college environment.

The purpose of this policy is to insure the exercise of these rights with due respect to the rights of others and the need for reasonable regulations in the operation of the College.

In order to provide this experience for students within the framework of Education Code Section 76120, the Board establishes the following policies, to be supplemented by administrative rules and regulations as reasonably required. Official college-sponsored materials are not covered by this policy.

528.2

College of the Canyons' students have the right to exercise free expression including, but not limited to, the distribution of printed materials or petitions, the wearing of buttons, badges, and other insignia, the use of non-classroom bulletin boards, and speech and expressive activity.

A. Circulation of Petitions, and Other Printed Material.

Students shall be allowed to distribute petitions and other printed material subject to the following parameters:

(1) Time

The time of distribution shall be limited to the hours and days that classes are in session. Distribution shall not be allowed during special events, such as dances, banquets, commencement, etc.

(2) Place

Distribution shall not:

- (a) Take place in college buildings;
- (b) Interfere with the normal flow of traffic, or
- (c) Impede entrance to or exit from college facilities.

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(a) Coercion is not to be used to induce students to accept the printed matter or to sign petitions.

(b) Funds or donations may not be collected for the material distributed, except as permitted by other sections of Board Policy.

(c) Copies of leaflets and printed materials to be distributed or posted shall be date-stamped through the Office of Student Development. A copy of each piece of printed material shall be kept on file in the Office of Student Development.

(d) Materials may not be left unattended on College premises.

(e) All copies of handout materials must clearly indicate the name of the sponsoring student or on-campus group making distribution.

(f) Persons responsible for distribution of materials will also be responsible for appropriate cleanup activities.

**B. Buttons, Badges, and Other Insignia or Symbolic Expression**

Students shall be permitted to wear buttons, badges, armbands, and other insignia as a form of expression, subject to the hereinafter-mentioned prohibitions.

**C. Non-Classroom Bulletin Boards**

In keeping with administrative rules and regulations, students shall be provided with bulletin boards for use in posting student materials on campus locations convenient to student use.

**D. Speech and Expressive Activity**

The Santa Clarita Community College District values the free exchange of ideas and expressive activity on college premises, and wishes to foster and protect the rights of all persons to exercise their constitutional rights protected under the First Amendment of the United States Constitution and Article I, Section 2 of the California Constitution. Nevertheless, the District historically has not converted, and by adoption of this Policy does not intend to convert, all facilities maintained and/or owned by the District into a public forum or limited public forum. The District reserves the right to enact regulations

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setting forth areas that may be used for speech and expressive activity and any reasonable regulations related thereto, limit the use of its facilities for the exercise of free speech and free expression, and to accommodate such speech and expression in facilities maintained and/or owned by the District. The right to free expression on college premises, as described above, extends only to speech and expressive conduct protected by the federal or state constitution.

Students shall be allowed to engage in speech and expressive activity subject to the following limitations.

(1) Time

The time shall be limited to the hours and days that classes are in session.

(2) Place

Expressive activities shall not:

- (a) Take place in college buildings;
- (b) Interfere with the normal flow of foot or vehicular traffic; or
- (c) Impede entrance to or exit from college facilities.

(3) Manner

The use of amplification by persons or groups on College premises shall not reach a sound level that creates a material disruption, **defined as exceeding 60 dB**, to the normal functioning of classroom instruction nor administrative operations of the College.

528.3

In the exercise of the student rights described above, and in accordance with the guidelines established in Ed. Code Section 76120, no student shall distribute materials, wear buttons or other displays, post notices or other materials, or engage in expressive activity that:

A. Is obscene, libelous or slanderous according to current legal definitions.

B. Incite students so as to create a clear and present danger of imminent commission of unlawful acts on College premises, or of the violation of lawful

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college regulations or of the substantial disruption of the orderly operation of the college.

C. Violate this Policy, including, but not limited to, the time, place and manner parameters outlined within, or the Administrative Regulations used to enforce this Policy.

**528.4**

This Policy and all implementing regulations regarding speech or other expressive activity shall be applied equitably and fairly. This Policy is intended to be content neutral. No restriction shall be placed on subject matter or viewpoints expressed by any persons except as described above.