(The language in this suggested policy is in compliance with Washington state law SSB5064, enacted June 7, 2018.)

STUDENT MEDIA POLICY STATEMENT FOR (MEDIA NAME)

AT (SCHOOL NAME) HIGH SCHOOL, A WASHINGTON STATE PUBLIC SCHOOL

*Freedom of expression and press freedom are fundamental values in a democratic society. The mission of any institution committed to preparing productive citizens must include teaching students these values, both by lesson and by example. As determined by Washington state law and the courts, student exercise of freedom of expression and press freedom is protected, especially by the First Amendment to the United States Constitution. Accordingly, school officials are responsible for encouraging and ensuring freedom of expression and press freedom for all students.*

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (newspaper), (yearbook), (literary magazine) and (electronic or on-line media), the official, school-sponsored student media of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ High School have been established as forums for student expression and as voices in the uninhibited, robust, free and open discussion of issues.

Each medium pledges to provide a full opportunity for students to inquire, question and exchange ideas. Content strives to reflect all areas of student interest, including topics about which there may be dissent or controversy.

Student editors and journalists will be advised by a teacher/adviser who provides guidance, training in journalistic principles, and access to necessary resources. If not previously trained in journalism, appropriate professional development will be provided by the school district.

In accordance with Washington state law (SB 5064 C125 L18), student journalists shall have the right to determine the content of student media.

**RESPONSIBILITIES OF STUDENT JOURNALISTS**

Students who work on official, school-sponsored student publications or electronic media determine the content of their respective publications and are responsible for that content. Student editors pledge to

l. Determine the content of the student media, based on news value and guided by the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (Society of Professional Journalists) (National Scholastic Press Association) (or other) Code of Ethics;

2. Strive to produce media based upon professional standards of accuracy, objectivity and fairness;

3. Review material to improve sentence structure, grammar, spelling and punctuation;

4. Check and verify all facts and verify the accuracy of all quotations; and

5. In the case of editorials or letters to the editor concerning controversial issues, determine the need for rebuttal comments and opinions and provide space therefore if appropriate.