



Aurum Preparatory Academy (“APA”) believes that free inquiry and exchange of ideas are essential parts of a democratic education. APA respects students' rights to express ideas and opinions, take stands on issues, and support causes, even when such speech is controversial or unpopular.

Students shall have the right to exercise freedom of speech and of the press including, but not limited to, the use of bulletin boards; the distribution of printed materials or petitions; the wearing of buttons, badges, and other insignia; and the right of expression in official publications. (Education Code 48907).

Students' freedom of expression shall be limited only as allowed by Education Code 48907, 48950, and other applicable state and federal laws.

Students are prohibited from making any expressions or distributing or posting any materials that are obscene, libelous, or slanderous. Students also are prohibited from making any expressions that so incites students as to create a clear and present danger of the commission of unlawful acts on APA premises, the violation of school rules, or substantial disruption of the school's orderly operation. (Education Code 48907)

The use of "fighting words" or epithets is prohibited in those instances where the speech is abusive and insulting, rather than a communication of ideas, and the speech is used in an abusive manner in a situation that presents an actual danger that it will cause a breach of the peace.

The Executive Director shall not engage in prior restraint of material prepared for official APA publications except insofar as the content of the material violates the law. (Education Code 48907)

APA shall not discipline any student solely on the basis of speech or other communication that would be constitutionally protected when engaged in outside of APA, but may impose discipline for harassment, threats, or intimidation unless constitutionally protected. (Education Code 48950)

A student shall be subject to discipline for off-campus expression, including expression on off-campus Internet web sites, when such expression poses a threat to the safety of other students, staff, or APA property, or substantially disrupts the educational program. The Executive Director or designee shall document the impact the expression had or could be expected to have.