



Adopted: 02/25/2026

Revised: _____

Policy Name: STUDENT JOURNALIST POLICY

OSHKI OGIMAAG CHARTER SCHOOL

I. Applicability Clause (Minn. Stat. § 121A.80)

This policy is adopted to comply with Minnesota Statutes § 121A.80, which requires each school district and charter school to adopt and post a student journalist policy. At this time, Oshki Ogimaag (OOCs) does not enroll students in grades 6 through 12. Under statute, only students in grades 6–12 may qualify as “student journalists,” and the rights and responsibilities described in this policy apply solely to those students.

II. Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to recognize and protect the rights of student journalists at OOCs to exercise freedom of speech and freedom of the press in school-sponsored media, consistent with Minnesota Statutes § 121A.80 and the First Amendment. This policy establishes expectations and standards to ensure that school-sponsored media operate responsibly, ethically, and in alignment with educational goals while maintaining student editorial independence.

III. Definitions

1. Student Journalist: A student in grades 6–12 who gathers, compiles, writes, edits, photographs, records, or otherwise prepares information for dissemination in school-sponsored media.

2. Student Media Adviser: A school employee designated to provide instruction or guidance to student journalists working on school-sponsored media. 3.

School-Sponsored Media: Any medium—print, digital, audio, video, or online—created substantially by student journalists under the direction of a Student Media Adviser and distributed to students, families, or the public. 4.

Editorial Control: The right of student journalists to determine the content of school-sponsored media, subject only to restrictions permitted by Minnesota Statutes § 121A.80.

IV. Rights of Student Journalists

Student journalists have the right to:

1. Exercise freedom of speech and freedom of the press in school-sponsored media, regardless of whether the media use school resources or are produced as part of a class.
2. Determine the content of school-sponsored media, including news, opinion, features, and advertising.
3. Be free from discipline or retaliation for lawful journalistic activity protected by Minnesota Statutes § 121A.80.
4. Expect the Student Media Adviser to support student editorial independence.

V. Prohibited Content

School-sponsored media may not contain material that:

1. Is obscene to minors;
2. Is defamatory;
3. Constitutes an invasion of privacy;
4. Violates state or federal law;
5. Incites unlawful conduct or substantially disrupts school operations;
6. Harasses, threatens, or targets individuals in violation of school policies;
7. Advertises or promotes products or services unlawful for minors. 8.

Publication may be restrained only to the extent permitted by statute.

VI. Editorial Standards and Ethics

Student media shall adhere to widely recognized journalistic standards, including accuracy, fairness, verification of facts, clear distinction between news and opinion, ethical decision-making, and responsible handling of sensitive content.

VII. Role of the Student Media Adviser

The Student Media Adviser shall:

1. Provide instruction in journalism, media law, ethics, and professional standards;
2. Support student editorial independence;
3. Ensure student journalists understand legal limits on expression; 4.
- Facilitate access to appropriate school resources for media production.

VIII. Distribution Rules

Distribution of student media must comply with time, place, and manner regulations that:

1. Are content-neutral;
2. Do not discriminate based on viewpoint;
3. Are applied consistently to all student-produced materials;
4. Maintain safe and orderly school operations.

IX. Notification and Implementation

1. The school will provide training for student journalists and the Student Media Adviser;
2. The policy will be posted on the school website and included in applicable handbooks;
3. A standard disclaimer shall appear in student media: "Published by students of OOCS. The views expressed are those of the student authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the school, its staff, or administrators."

XI. Policy Review and Adoption

This policy will be reviewed at least every three years, or earlier if required by changes in law.