

TENNESSEE PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL COMMISSION		
STUDENT EQUAL ACCESS/ LIMITED PUBLIC FORUM		4802
ADOPTED: April 9, 2021	REVISED:	MONITORING: Review: Annually

If an authorized charter school chooses to provide a limited public forum for student speakers at school events, the school shall adopt a policy, in accordance with state law, to establish guidelines for the provision of student equal access in a limited public forum. It is the responsibility of the school to implement this policy and monitor limited public forums, if established.¹

“Limited public forum” means public property that is provided for students as a place for expressive activity which may impose reasonable, content-neutral time, place, and manner restrictions on certain groups or topics of speech; provided, that the restriction is necessary and narrowly tailored to serve a compelling state interest.²

If the school chooses to establish a limited public forum, the school’s policy shall ensure that the school does not discriminate against a student’s publicly stated voluntary expression of a religious viewpoint, if any, and to eliminate any actual or perceived affirmative school sponsorship or attribution to the school of a student’s expression of a religious viewpoint, if any.³

The policy shall also include and/or address:⁴

- (1) Rights of students and/or groups of students to organize meetings and express viewpoints;
- (2) Procedures for request and approval of student meetings;
- (3) Requirements for approval of student meetings;
- (4) Parameters for time, place/facilities, and manner of student meetings;
- (5) Method, based on neutral criteria, for the selection of student speakers at school events and graduation ceremonies;
- (6) Role and responsibilities of the school and its administrators and staff; and
- (7) Permissible and prohibited content of student expression, including ensuring that a student speaker does not engage in speech that is obscene, vulgar, offensively lewd, indecent, or promotes illegal drug use.

The school shall state in writing, orally, or both, that the student’s speech does not reflect the endorsement, sponsorship, position, or expression of the school or district.

Legal References:

¹ T.C.A. § 49-6-1802; T.C.A. § 49-6-1805

² T.C.A. § 49-6-1801

³ T.C.A. § 49-6-1803(b)

⁴ T.C.A. § 49-6-1801 - 1805