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Freedom

representing any kind of logos. This dress code was established in 2001. It was also decided that parents as well as students are responsible for the was

## State Laws Protecting Students' Freedom of Expression

## Iowa: 1989

On May 11, 1989 the state of Iowa passed Section 280.22 of the Iowa Code, which is based on freedom of expression for students. Students may publish work based on their freedom of expression, unless it contains obscenities, promotes unlawful acts, violates school policies, or disrupts school functions. The code that explicitly states these provisions will be provided to students and parents to make sure that they are knowledgeable and do not violate it. It is important that students uphold English and journalism standards. The student puMtho/TTD3student

## Arkansas: 1995

The Arkansas Student Publications Act protects students' right of expression in the press, including school sponsored publications. The restrictions are very similar to those expressed in the other laws detailed here, and are as follows:

Student publications policies shall recognize that truth, fairness, accuracy, and responsibility are essential to the practice of journalism, and that the following types of publications by students are not authorized:

- (1) publications that are obscene as to minors, as defined by state law;
- (2) publications that are libelous or slanderous, as defined by state law;
- (3) publications that constitute an unwarranted invasion of privacy, as defined by state law; or
- (4) publications that so incite students as to create a clear and present danger of the commission of unlawful acts on school premises or the violations of lawful school regulations or the material and substantial disruption of the orderly operation of the school.

No protections or limitations of responsibility for the school officials are included in the law.<sup>13</sup>

## Oregon: 2007

Section 351.649 of the Oregon Revised Statutes, the Oregon Student Free Expression Law, protects the rights of freedom of expression and freedom of the press for students in public high schools and institutions of higher education.<sup>14</sup> This law is particularly notable because it is the first action of this type to be passed since 1995. At least five other states considered but did not pass similar measures.<sup>15</sup>

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Disclaimer: This report has been compiled by undergraduate students at the University of Vermont under the supervision of Professor Anthony Gierzynski. The material contained in the report does not reflect the official policy of the University of Vermont.

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<sup>13</sup> "Arkansas Student Publications Act," Ark. Stat. Ann. Secs. 6-18-1201 – 1204, Student Press Law Center. Retrieved 23 April 2009 from [http://www.splc.org/law\\_library.asp?id=5](http://www.splc.org/law_library.asp?id=5)

<sup>14</sup> Oregon Revised Statutes section 351.649, Retrieved 23 April 2009 from <http://www.leg.state.or.us/ors/351.html> and [http://www.splc.org/law\\_library.asp?id=43](http://www.splc.org/law_library.asp?id=43)

<sup>15</sup> Hudson Jr., 2007.