Communication, written, verbal, gestural, or graphic, is the essential element of the educational process and is considered an integral part of the curriculum. Therefore, LSMSA accords a high priority to its proper use through correct and educationally acceptable grammatical construction, syntax, and form. Additionally, since a public school is not per se a public forum, the school is sensitive to its two-fold mission of assuring freedom of expression and protecting itself and its students from defamation, insensitive remarks, and false light communications. Therefore, prior approval of students' written statements shall be required before publication in any school-related activity. The evaluation of statements shall not be done in an arbitrary nor capricious manner but shall be based on the following criteria:

1. The statement shall be evaluated as to whether or not it is an opinion or a fact. An opinion shall be considered to be an abstract concept that cannot be palpably verified. On the other hand, a fact can be palpably verified.
2. Unless an opinion falsely accuses someone of a crime as defined by state law, an opinion shall receive the full protection of the U.S. Constitution and the Louisiana Constitution.
3. If it is a statement of fact, as defined above, the school authorities shall determine if it is the truth or libelous statement.

If a true statement, the school authorities shall ascertain if the statement contains:

1. Fighting words.
2. Obscene words.
3. An invasion of privacy. This test shall be whether it is of legitimate public concern or puts an innocent person in false light.
4. If it is a libelous statement, either per se libelous or by implication, then the test of whether it is aimed at a public official/person or a private person will be determined.

In school areas designated as a public forum or a limited public forum, all statements, written or verbal, shall be subject to time, manner, and place restrictions. Distribution of written and graphic materials on school premises and at school-sponsored functions will be subjected to the above enumerated criteria as well as to whether or not this act interferes with the orderly functioning of the educational mission of the school.

Students must express their opinions and ideas in a respectful manner so as not to offend others. Exemplary but not exclusive examples are expressions that cause fights; that exhibit detrimental literary tastes; nonscientific statements or statements taken as a whole that would be considered by an objective observer as profane, vulgar, obscene, libelous or pornographic.