

Note from SBCTC, Aug. 10, 2020: The following draft social media policies were provided by AAG David Stolier following a July 8, 2020 webinar on First Amendment Rights on campus.

Social Media Terms of Use Policies – Examples

Example 1. The purpose of the College’s official social media accounts is to provide students, fans, followers, and friends information about our programs, department groups, and events.

The College is dedicated to providing a meaningful educational experience for all of our students and we value diversity and inclusion within our community. Views that are expressed in our official accounts do not necessarily represent the school’s views, but we recognize that a thriving academic community is not possible without our students, fans, followers, and friends sharing their thoughts freely with one another on our official social media accounts. To ensure the interactions on our official social media account further meaningful dialogue, we reserve the right to monitor the conversations by removing comments and/or posts that are or contain:

- Not responsive to the topic, including, but not limited to, spam and similar comments promoting a product, service, or entity unrelated to the discussion;
- Personal attacks on individuals, threats, or discriminatory harassment;
- Illegal activity or encouragement of illegal activity;
- Information that could compromise the safety of the college’s staff or students.
- Political statements, including comments that endorse or oppose political candidates or ballot propositions.

Example 2. Excerpted and Adapted from Superintendent of Public Instruction

The views expressed in user comments to OSPI social media platforms solely reflect those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the official views of OSPI. OSPI will allow comments reflecting any point of view on a posted topic, but the agency expectation is that comments will be consistent with OSPI’s social media content guidelines. OSPI reserves the discretion to hide comments and suspend commenters as a result of any social media user comments that are inconsistent with the following content guidelines.

- Advocacy of or opposition to any political candidate, political party, or ballot measure.
- External content not suitable for readers or viewers of all ages.
- Promotion of or inciting illegal or violent conduct.
- Threats or obscenity.
- Defamatory statements or personal attacks directed at an individual or specific group of individuals.
- Promotion of alcohol or tobacco products.
- Promotion of illegal drugs.
- Promotion of adult or sexually oriented entertainment.
- Promotion of gambling.

- Advocacy of, promoting, or discussing commercial activity or private business interests, including links to or advertising commercial activity.
- Content that infringes on any trademark, copyright, or patent rights of another.
- Personal information including, but not limited to, email addresses, telephone numbers, mailing addresses, or personal identification numbers.
- User comments to social media posts that are not relevant to that post.
- Repetitive user comments, including those that are copied and pasted.

Commenter Violations

When OSPI determines a user comment is in violation of the terms of use, OSPI will hide the relevant comment and take the following steps:

1. After the first violation by a commenter, the commenter will be provided notice of the violation and reason why the comment was removed.
2. After the second violation by a commenter, the commenter will be provided notice of the violation and the commenter's account will be suspended from commenting on OSPI's social media platform for 30 days.
3. After the third violation by a commenter, the commenter will be provided notice of the violation and the commenter's account will be suspended from commenting on OSPI's social media platform for up to one year.

Example 3. Excerpted and Adapted from City of Seattle

The following will not be tolerated when interacting with the City and/or people using City of Seattle social media, blogs, and other online forums:

- Potentially libelous comments
- Content that constitutes discriminatory harassment on the basis of race, creed, color, age, religion, gender, marital status, status with regard to public assistance, national origin, physical or mental disability or sexual orientation
- Obscenity
- Sexual content or links to sexual content
- Conduct or encouragement of illegal activity
- Threats or personal attacks
- Comments not meaningfully related to the particular topic presented
- Repetitive posts of the same material that disrupt normal operation of the forum
- Hyperlinks to material not directly related to the discussion
- Information that may compromise the safety or security of the public or public systems
- Content that violates a legal ownership interest of any other party
- Postings of, or requests for, other participants' personal information, such as phone number, address, financial accounts, etc.
- Impersonation of someone else
- Commercial messages, including advertisements and solicitations and spam
- Support for or opposition to political campaigns or ballot measures

Posts, comments, replies, or any public commentary containing any of the above may be deleted. Multiple violations may result in the restriction of your ability to interact with the City of Seattle on social media, blogs, or other online forums.

We respect the privacy of your identity; however, persons making threats or using offensive language may be reported to the appropriate authorities.

All posted content and commentary are public records subject to public disclosure under the Public Records Act.