

Do I have First Amendment rights in school?

YES.

The Supreme Court ruled in 1969 that students do **not** “shed their constitutional rights to freedom of speech or expression at the schoolhouse gate.”

Students cannot be punished for exercising free speech rights, even if school administrators don’t approve of what they are saying.



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As a student, you have a right to...

Speak out, hand out flyers and petitions, and wear expressive clothing in school.

As long as you don’t disrupt the functioning of the school or violate school policies that don’t hinge on the message expressed. What counts as “disruptive” will vary by context, but a school disagreeing with your position is **not** enough to qualify.

Speak your mind on social media.

Your school **cannot** punish you for content you post off campus and outside of school hours that does not relate to school.

Participate in political protests.

If you are missing class to participate in a protest, you can be subjected to the school’s attendance policy. But the school **cannot** punish you more harshly because of the political nature of or the message behind your action.