

STUDENTS

ACTIVITIES

REGULATION

§8-42      Theatrical Presentations

Loudoun County Public Schools administrative guidelines are designed to support drama presentations that challenge, nurture, and extend students' skills while adhering to the basic educational mission of teaching students boundaries of socially appropriate behavior, the rights and responsibilities of the exercise of free speech, and the importance of taking into consideration the sensibilities of the community. The drama sponsor has the primary responsibility and the principal has the final authority for ensuring that this policy is followed.

To ensure that these criteria are met, drama sponsors should follow this protocol:

1. The drama sponsor will present a proposed play to the principal at least six weeks before any auditions are held or technical crews chosen. The final decision regarding a play's production will not be announced to the student body until it has been cleared by the principal.
2. When the drama sponsor presents a proposal to the principal, a discussion will be held as to the play's appropriateness. The discussion should allow consideration of:
  - a. the educational value of producing the play;
  - b. whether modes of expression expose minors to vulgar, indecent, lewd, or offensive language or acts;
3. The thematic content of a play should be appropriate to the emotional maturity of the target audience.
4. Plays with vulgar or lewd acts should not be presented.
5. Theatrical productions involving obscenity or advocating the commission of illegal acts or the violation of school rules or policies shall not be permitted.

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#### §8-42      Theatrical Presentations (continued)

6.      The version of a script presented to the principal is the version to be performed. If modifications are made to an established script, they will be presented to the principal before the script is approved.
7.      If the play is written by a student, the script must be completed before it is submitted for review. If modifications to a student script are made, the principal will be informed of these modifications so that they may be reviewed prior to the performance.
8.      A principal may convene an advisory panel to discuss a play. If the work is student-generated, the student may be added to this panel. This will be an advisory panel only. The final decision on the play's production will be the principal's.
9.      Once a play has been approved by the principal for production, a brief summary of the play will be posted on the school's home page.
10.     Drama productions presented publicly will be videotaped unless prohibited by copyright law. All performances of student-written plays will be videotaped.
11.     All play programs, including artwork, will be submitted for the principal's review. The program will be in a traditional format.