

Legal Entry 1

10 Supreme Court Cases Every Teens Should Know A NYT article by Tom Jacobs

www.nytimes.com/learning/teachers/featured_articles/2008090115/

By Deirdre Wilson-Redmond

Professor Robert Reid

Educational Leadership: School Law

Due date: February 16, 2018

SUPREME COURT CASES & TEENS IN SCHOOL

This article represents a fascinating array of legal case spanning a number of decades all related to school law and those pesky teenagers. Each of the cases focuses on some other aspect of student concern.

The first case discussed in a 1969 case pertaining to free speech. The case entitled, *Tinker V. Des Moines Independent School District* the courts give teens some leverage to express themselves, but NOT free rein. The Supreme Court decided that students had the right to say what they wanted to but that “as long as an act of expression doesn’t disrupt classwork or school activities or invade the rights of others, it’s acceptable.”

The second case law item entitled, “New Jersey v TLO, a 1985 case surrounding search and seizure. The rights of privacy are a big deal for students in this age group and it is not surprising that these types of issues are brought to court rather frequently. The case was based on a student who admittedly was selling drugs on campus after the principal caught her smoking in the bathroom after which time she was asked to reveal the contents of her pocket book. In the pocketbook. This was a local New Jersey case. “The Supreme Court ruled in favor of the school. Students have ‘legitimate expectations of privacy,’” the Court said.

The third case was from 2000 and it was entitled, *Santa Fe Independent School District v Jane Doe*. This case revolved around school prayer. A student in Texas was allowed to be chaplain in her SGA and her job was to lead prayer over the loud speaking before games. The Supreme court determined that “The Constitution demands that schools not force on students the difficult choice between attending these games and avoiding personally offensive religious rituals.”

The next case this article discussed was *West Side Community Schools v Mergens (1990)* a case which revolved around student clubs. This case centered on whether or not a group could

SUPREME COURT CASES & TEENS IN SCHOOL

meet after school if they had a religious affiliation. The Court stated that “Allowing students to meet on campus to discuss religion after school did not amount to state sponsorship of religion.”

There were several more cases but these were the ones on which I chose to concentrate. It would appear that school very often operate in their own legal microcosm of rules. There are however some that universally apply. The court varied their rulings to fit the situation they were faced with.