

First Amendment Affiliate Schools Application

First Amendment Affiliate Schools are part of a national network of K-12 public and private schools committed to educating for freedom and responsibility. Affiliate Schools agree to the guiding principles of the First Amendment Schools (FAS) project as stated in the Vision Statement.

Schools may apply to become First Amendment Affiliate Schools by completing this application and submitting it to the FAS staff for consideration.



First Amendment Affiliate Schools receive these benefits:

- Resources and materials on First Amendment issues in schools, including *The First Amendment in Schools* and *Finding Common Ground: A Guide to Religious Liberty in Public Schools*.
- Subscriptions to the weekly electronic newsletter, First Amendment School News, featuring network school updates and ideas, First Amendment resources, and relevant news stories and legal updates.
- Access to the FAS Network Web Board, where schools share questions, comments, and ideas.
- Opportunities to attend conferences on democratic education and the First Amendment.
- Eligibility for Affiliate School mini-grants, designed to provide support for “best practices” that implement the principles of the First Amendment Schools project.
- Eligibility for the three-year FAS Project School Grant Program, designed to foster comprehensive efforts at whole-school reform.



First Amendment Affiliate Schools have these responsibilities:

- Agree to the commitment statement identifying the core beliefs of a First Amendment School.
- Commit to implement the four principles of the FAS Vision Statement.
- Welcome questions and site visits from people interested in learning about the school’s work.
- Share stories and updates about the school’s progress toward becoming a laboratory of democratic freedom.
- Submit an annual report, utilizing FAS benchmarks to document the school’s successes and challenges throughout the year.



Become a First Amendment Affiliate School

ELIGIBILITY

Applications to become a First Amendment Affiliate School are welcome from K-12 public and private schools in the United States.

SELECTION CRITERIA

Successful applications will voice strong support for the four principles of the First Amendment Schools project as outlined in the Vision Statement. Schools are not expected to have fully implemented these principles. Rather, they are asked to work toward creating a school culture that takes democratic freedom seriously.

COMPLETING AND SUBMITTING THE APPLICATION

The application must be completed by a team of at least three individuals at the school. The team must include the principal, and should also include some combination of students, teachers, parents, or administrators.

Completed applications should be mailed to:

**First Amendment Schools Network
Attention: Sam Chaltain
First Amendment Center
c/o Freedom Forum
1101 Wilson Blvd.
Arlington, VA 22209**

All schools will be notified of their application’s status in a timely manner. For any additional questions, please contact Sam Chaltain at **703/284-2808** or **schaltain@freedomforum.org**.

FIRST AMENDMENT AFFILIATE SCHOOLS APPLICATION

PART I — SCHOOL PROFILE

School name and address:

Grade levels: _____

Enrollment: _____

Number of staff by role: _____ administrators
_____ teachers
_____ guidance counselors
_____ support personnel

Percentage of students who qualify for free/reduced lunch: _____

Percentage of LEP students: _____

Percentage of students who receive financial assistance (if applicable): _____

Type of school:

- Public
 Independent sectarian
 Independent non-sectarian

Level of School:

- Elementary
 Middle/Junior High
 High

School Community:

- Rural
 Urban
 Suburban
 Other _____

Percentage of students:

- _____ American Indian/Alaskan Native
_____ Asian/Pacific Islander
_____ Hispanic
_____ Black (not of Hispanic origin)
_____ White (not of Hispanic origin)
_____ Multiracial
_____ Undesignated

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PART II — EDUCATING FOR FREEDOM AND RESPONSIBILITY

(Please attach your responses.)

1. In 250 words or less, why is your school interested in joining the First Amendment Schools Network? What do you hope to gain from this collaboration?
2. In 500 words or less, please describe one "best practice" at your school that helps demonstrate your commitment to creating a laboratory of democratic freedom. How was this practice developed? Who benefits? What is the evidence of your success?

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PART III — COMMITMENT STATEMENT

We, the undersigned, have read the *Vision Statement, First Amendment Schools: Educating for Freedom and Responsibility*, and discussed the benefits and responsibilities of a First Amendment Affiliate School.

We wish to join the First Amendment Schools Network because we believe:

- *That the future of the American republic depends upon instilling in young citizens an abiding commitment to the democratic first principles that sustain our experiment in liberty;*
- *That freedom of religion, speech, press, assembly and petition are fundamental and inalienable rights, and that all Americans have a civic responsibility to guard these rights for all citizens;*
- *That the First Amendment provides the civic framework of rights and responsibilities that enables all Americans to work together for the common good in schools and communities; and*
- *That a society committed to freedom and justice for all requires citizens with the knowledge, virtues and skills needed for active engagement.*

We will work to model and apply these principles throughout our school community, to the best of our abilities.

SCHOOL NAME

PRINCIPAL

SIGNED

NAME

NAME

SIGNED

SIGNED

ROLE GROUP

ROLE GROUP

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Additional applications are available at www.firstamendmentschools.org