

STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS

The Board of Education recognizes the educational values inherent in student participation in the extracurricular life of the school, and supports the concept of the formation of student groups for such purposes as building sound social relationships, developing interests in an academic area, and gaining an understanding of the elements and responsibilities of good citizenship.

The Superintendent of Schools, with the aid of students, faculty and administration, is charged with developing procedures for registering and regulating student groups or clubs. Such procedures shall ensure that the district will register any group organized for a purpose not prohibited by Board policy or by law, if such group submits a list of its members designated as contacts, a copy of its constitution and/or bylaws, and the constitution and bylaws of any off-campus organization with which it may be affiliated. Student groups may not restrict membership on the basis of race, sex, national origin or other arbitrary criteria.

Every student organization must have a set of bylaws approved by the student government in consultation with the Building Principal. These by-laws will not be in conflict with any established guidelines of the Board or the constitution of the student government.

Student organizations will have equitable access to designated school facilities.

The organization will be entitled to faculty advisors of their own selection. However, the teacher selected must agree to serve and must have the approval of the Building Principal. Faculty advisors will be appointed by the Principal after consultation with the student organization.

Student organizations will be encouraged to plan and carry out forums, seminars and other programs. These activities, if part of the school program during the school day, are subject to the approval of the Principal. When conducted after school hours, such activities shall have the same rights and responsibilities as any group using school facilities, including responsibility for providing appropriate arrangements for supervision.

A Principal will have the authority to suspend the operation of any student organization if its activities are deemed to be detrimental to the welfare or safety of the school or if it operates in violation of established rules or bylaws.

No fraternity, sorority or other secret society, whether local or national in character, has any standing in, or connection with, the district. No recognition is given to any such organization in any way whatsoever. The promotion of fraternity and sorority activities is not permitted on school property or in school publications.

Student groups have the responsibility to make clear that their programs do not necessarily reflect the view of the district.

Administrative regulations governing the use of school facilities shall abide by the Equal Access Act in the creation of a "limited open forum." All noncurricula-related student activities, regardless of religious or political content, shall have the same opportunities as any other such activity to operate on school grounds.

Cross-ref: 5200, Cocurricular and Extracurricular Activities

Ref: Education Law §§207; 1709-a; 2503-a; 2554-a
Equal Access Act, 20 U.S.C. §§4071-4074
8 NYCRR Part 172
Board of Education of the Westside Community Schools v. Mergens, 496 U.S. 226 (1990)
Garnett By Smith v. Renton School Dist. No. 403, 865 F.2d 1121 (9th Cir., 1989)
Thompson v. Waynesboro Area School Dist., 673 F.Supp. 1379 (M.D. Pa. 1987)
Student Coalition v. Lower Merion School Dist. Bd., 633 F.Supp. 1040 (E.D. Pa. 1986)
Tinker v. Des Moines Independent Community School Dist., 393 U.S. 503, 89 S.Ct. 733 (1969)
Healy v. James, 408 U.S. 169, 92 S.Ct. 2338 (1972)

Note: Prior policies, Policy Manual, JFCE, JFCE-R, IGDA, revised
Please select whether the district is a "limited open" forum (as it appears to be) or a "closed forum." Further information on this subject is available in LAMPS, SECTION 5210.

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