

BOOSTER ORGANIZATIONS

The purpose of this policy is to set guidelines for the interaction between booster clubs and the Rochester City School District.

The Board of Education recognizes that extracurricular support groups, or “booster” organizations, provide important support to District schools and stimulate community interest in the aims and activities of our schools. Booster organizations may be defined in two ways:

1. An organization which is created to foster community support and raise funds for a specific extracurricular activity (e.g., athletics, speech and debate, and musical groups); or
2. An organization which is created to foster community support and raise funds for a school’s general extracurricular program.

Parents and other interested members of the community who wish to organize a booster club for the purpose of supporting a specific school program are encouraged to do so, as long as the activities of such organization do not interfere unduly with the total educational program or disrupt District operations in any way. To this end, booster organizations must follow these guidelines:

1. Membership in the organization must be voluntary;
2. Submit an activity schedule in advance to the Superintendent of Schools or designee for prior approval. Any time the booster club uses the name of the School District, or any language suggesting that the District has endorsed, sponsored or otherwise approved of the club’s activities, there must be prior approval by the Superintendent.;
3. Seek advance approval for any use of school facilities and/or equipment, following the policy and procedures outlined in Policy 1500 (Public Use of School Facilities) and its accompanying regulation;
4. Avoid interference with the decision-making of any student group;
5. Understand and respect the authority of District employees in the administration of their duties; and
6. Assume all financial responsibility for their organization, including but not limited to the provision of adequate insurance coverage, as appropriate.

If a booster organization wishes to make a contribution of money, service time, or tangible property to the School District, the contribution shall be made in accordance with the procedures set forth in Superintendent Regulation 1810-R.

Booster-proposed plans, projects and other activities must be evaluated and promoted in light of their stated contribution to the academic and extra-curricular school programs. Careful consideration should be given to the total value of the contribution to all students, and not just specific student groups.

Accounting by Booster Clubs - Each booster club must have its own checking account and the bylaws for the club must require two signatures for any disbursement from the account. Booster club funds and accounts are not School District accounts and will not be included in the District's budgeting and accounting for its annual audit purposes. Funds collected by a booster club are not to be deposited into the School District's student activity accounts. By June 30th of each year, each booster club shall provide a financial report to the Superintendent or designee itemizing funding revenues and expenditures over the past year.

The booster club shall not represent or imply that its activities, contracts, purchases, or financial commitments are made on behalf of or binding upon any school or the School District itself. Such a statement shall appear on all purchase orders, contracts and other forms of financial commitment issued by the booster club.

Fundraising - All fundraising activities shall comply with the local, state and federal law. School employees, including athletic coaches, trainers or sponsors of school-sponsored student groups, shall not act as the primary organizers or spokespersons for any booster club fundraising event. Participation in fundraising activities by a booster club shall be a factor in a student's level of participation in any school activity of athletic program.

Title IX Compliance - The Board of Education discourages the formation or organization of booster clubs which sponsor, assist or support student activities or athletic programs which predominately serve student participants of a single sex. In order to assure that contributions or support by booster clubs do not create inequities or significant disparities in the program equipment and facilities made available to students participating in single sex sports, the booster club shall donate funds or tangible personal property contributed to the Rochester City School District's educational, extracurricular or athletic programs, by program or sport. Support provided to a single athletic program, regardless of source, must be included in the Rochester City School District's evaluation of its overall athletic program and the comparability of benefits made available to male versus female athletics.

Ref: *Title IX of Civil Rights Act of 1964, 20 USC 1681-1688*

Cross-ref: *Public Use of School Facilities (1500)*
Gifts from the Public (1810)
Gifts from the Public Regulation (1810-R)
Code of Conduct (5300)

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