

INSTRUCTION

STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS (SECONDARY SCHOOLS)

File: IGDA

Policy Statement

It is the policy of the division to permit the organization and operation of student organizations in the secondary schools and to permit such organizations to meet on school premises. The purpose of this policy is to establish criteria and procedures governing the operation of student organizations.

Student-Initiated Organizations

Curriculum-related student organizations serve as an extension of the regular school curriculum. Their function is to enhance the participants' educational experience and supplement the course materials within the educational program of the schools. The activities of these organizations should bear a clear relationship to the regular curriculum. Student organizations meeting these criteria and approved by the principal will be deemed to be officially recognized, school-sponsored student organizations.

Secondary school students also are permitted to organize and conduct meetings of noncurriculum-related organizations to pursue activities outside of the school curriculum, subject to the provisions of this policy. Such organizations must be student initiated and directed, and school personnel, parents and any other persons who are not students enrolled in the division are prohibited from directing, controlling, conducting or regularly attending the meetings of such organizations, except that the faculty sponsor(s)/supervisor(s) must attend all meetings. Noncurriculum-related student organizations that are student initiated shall not be deemed to be school sponsored or endorsed. The fact that such organizations are permitted to conduct meetings under this policy shall not constitute an expression of division support for the purposes of such organizations or the content of any meetings thereof.

Membership

Membership in all student-initiated organizations shall be open to and limited to all students currently enrolled in the sponsoring school on a voluntary basis. These student organizations may establish academic qualifications for membership where necessarily related to the purposes of the organization. No student shall be denied membership on account of his/her race, color, gender, sexual orientation, religion, or national origin. Qualifications based on sex may be imposed only where based on competitive athletic skill or where the activity involved is a contact sport.

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Faculty Supervision

Curriculum-related student organizations shall be sponsored and supervised by one or more of the members of the school faculty and approved by the principal. Faculty sponsors shall participate in the supervision and direction of all activities of the organization and shall attend all meetings.

Noncurriculum-related student organizations that are student initiated shall not have a faculty sponsor. However, a member of the school's professional staff shall attend every meeting or activity of such organizations in a non-participatory capacity for purposes of general supervision. The organization shall be responsible to assure the presence of a staff member for its meetings.

No school employee shall be compelled to attend a meeting of any student organization if the content of such meeting is contrary to the beliefs of that school employee. School employees present at any meeting of a noncurriculum-related student organization which includes religious worship, prayer or practice or is identified as having a religious purpose shall attend in a non-participatory capacity only.

Meetings of Student Organizations

All student organizations shall have the right to meet on school premises during time designated by the school principal. No student organization shall be denied equal access to school facilities during designated meeting times on the basis of the religious, political, philosophical or other content of the speech at the meetings of such organization. No public funding or support shall be extended to any noncurriculum-related student organization other than the opportunity to meet on school premises on an equal basis as other student organizations.

The principal of each school shall develop guidelines and rules concerning the procedure for scheduling meetings of student organizations and setting the times and facilities which are available for such meetings. These guidelines and rules shall be made available to all students. Student organizations wishing to conduct meetings under this policy must make application to the principal for permission in accordance with division procedures.

Compliance with Law and Policy

Student organizations shall not engage in any activity which is contrary to law, division policy or school rules; which disrupts or clearly threatens to disrupt the orderly operation of the school; or which would adversely affect the health, safety or welfare of any students or staff members. Failure to comply with these provisions shall be grounds for disciplinary action.

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Adopted by School Board: July 16, 1998

Legal References: 20 USC section 4071 et seq. - Equal Access Act.

Title IX, Education Amendments of 1972, 34 C.F.R. Parts 101 and
106 - Nondiscrimination on the Basis of Sex