

1135 LIMITED PUBLIC FORUMS IN SCHOOL FACILITIES

The School District through its facilities utilization policy recognizes that it does provide space for "limited public forums" as defined in the Federal Equal Access Act. Therefore, secondary school administrators shall make space available for student forums for the purpose of affording a fair opportunity to students who wish to conduct meetings in the schools provided:

1. The request for space is student initiated.
2. That such forums are not under the direction, control, or conducted or regularly attended by non-school personnel.
3. Such meetings do not materially or substantially interfere with the orderly conduct of regular school activities.
4. That student attendance at such meetings is voluntary and student initiated.
5. or agents of the School District may be present if assigned to monitoring duties or if invited by the group holding the meeting.

In determining whether or not such meetings materially or substantially interfere with the orderly conduct of school activities, administrators shall inquire as to the makeup of the group, the expected attendance, and the content of the meeting(s) and shall not approve the use of the facility if it appears that the meeting may result in or lead to property damage, the commission or encouragement of illegal acts or may otherwise pose a threat to the school system or the public good.

Further, it is not the intent of the School Board by this policy to:

1. Influence the content of any prayer or other religious activity.
2. Require any person to participate in prayer or other religious activity.
3. Provide public financial support of such activities other than costs associated with providing space for the student meetings and allocations of staffing for monitoring the activity.
4. Compel school employees to attend any meeting if the content of the speech at the meeting is contrary to the belief(s) of the employee.
5. Sanction meetings which are otherwise unlawful.
6. Promote pupil attendance at such meetings by allowing any announcements on the public address system or poster announcements that exceed a simple announcement of the day, time, and location of the meeting.

Facility use permits may be issued to any size group for non-school day hours (generally 6:00 a.m. to 8:15 a.m. or 3:30 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.) with the only other limitation being the adequacy of available facilities to meet the needs of large groups. Students shall apply for a "Use Permit" in the office of the school principal. All other "Use Permit" requests are to be processed by the Community Education Office.

Issuance of a "Use Permit" is not to be interpreted as School District endorsement, sponsorship, or approval of matters advocated or discussed at the meetings.

Nothing in this policy shall prevent school personnel from initiating activities (of a traditional or historical extra-curricular nature) which require use of school space as long as there is no requirement for student participation.

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