

STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS

Secondary schools in the district may encourage students to broaden their knowledge and citizenship by permitting the formation of clubs or other groups that relate to subject matter covered by the curriculum. Such organizations shall operate within the framework of state statutes, board policy, administrative rules and the parameters of the learning program.

The ~~Executive Director~~ Policy Committee along with the Directors shall develop general guidelines for the establishment and operation of student organizations within the particular school. Among other provisions, such guidelines shall require the approval of the Director(s) prior to the formation of any club or organization in a school and the assignment of at least one faculty or staff member or two approved advisors (relative or legal guardian of a currently enrolled student) to each approved student organization.

All student organizations are required to open membership to all interested and/or eligible students. Fraternities, sororities and/or secret societies shall not receive recognition in any manner under this policy.

All forms of hazing in initiations shall be prohibited in a student organization. No initiation shall be held for a student organization, which will bring criticism to the school system or be degrading to the student.

A Faculty Advisor must attend every meeting of the student organization whether conducted on school premises or at another location.

The Director is responsible for determining that the purpose of a student organization is related to the curriculum. In the event that the Director denies a group the right to organize and conduct meetings as A curriculum-related student organization, then students may seek permission to meet as a non-curricular student organization in accordance with policy.

Academy of Charter School	Adopted:	June 25, 1996
Adams County District 12	Revised:	

NONCURRICULAR STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS

Students in secondary grades 7-12 in the district shall be permitted to organize and conduct meetings of non-curriculum-related student clubs or other groups to pursue specialized activities outside the classroom. Such groups shall not be considered school-sponsored student organizations nor be given all the privileges afforded to school-sponsored organizations.

Students may conduct meeting under this policy on school premises only during non-instructional time so that meetings do not interfere with the orderly conduct of the educational activities of the school. Meetings of non-curricular student groups must be scheduled, organized, and conducted within the guidelines established by this policy and accompanying regulations.

For purposes of this policy, "non-instructional time" means time set aside by each school before actual classroom instruction begins or after actual classroom instruction ends.

Requests for permission to conduct a non-curricular student meeting must originate from a student or a group of students. Non-school persons, including parents and those not attending school in this district including adults not affiliated with the academy and children not affiliated with the academy are prohibited from directing, controlling, or regularly attending the activities of a non-curricular student group, without permission from the director or designee.

All non-curricular student groups meeting on school premises are required to open membership to all interested and/or eligible students. Fraternities, sororities and/or secret societies shall not receive recognition in any manner under this policy. Attendance at all meetings must be voluntary.

The administration shall develop general guidelines and rules so that students will be informed about the procedure for scheduling meetings and activities, the hours available for meetings and the facilities available for meeting space. Students must request permission for a meeting of a non-curriculum-related group from the Director and submit all scheduling requests to the ~~principal~~ director for approval.

A member of the staff the advisor (relative or legal guardian of a currently enrolled student) must be invited to attend every meeting or activity scheduled on school premises for purposes of general supervision only. Students shall be responsible for assuring the presence of a AN staff monitor ADVISOR prior to every meeting.

Under no circumstances shall the school compel a faculty member or school employee to monitor or attend a meeting of a non-curricular student group if the content of the speech at the meeting is contrary to the beliefs of the school employee. School employees may be present at meetings of a non-curricular group only in a non-participatory capacity.

All forms of hazing in initiations shall be prohibited in any group meeting on school premises. No initiation shall be held for any non-curricular student group, which will bring criticism to the school system or be degrading to the student.

The school district, through the building Director, retains the authority to prohibit meetings, which would be otherwise unlawful. Further, nothing in this policy shall be construed to limit the authority of the school to maintain discipline on school premises, to protect the well being of students and faculty and to assure that attendance at meetings is voluntary. Neither shall anything in this policy be used to imply that the school is sponsoring a non-curricular student group other than an opportunity to meet on school premises.

In providing equal access to school facilities for all non-curricular groups, the district is not expressing any opinion or approval of the subject matter discussed at any meeting nor is it advocacy or supporting in any manner the point of view expressed by any student or group meeting as allowed by this policy.

Non-curricular student groups shall not be denied equal access to school facilities solely on the basis of the religious, political, philosophical or other content of any speech at such meetings.

Guidelines

NONCURRICULAR STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS

1. The Director shall review the weekly school calendar and indicate when time and space is available for meetings of student organizations so that the meetings will not interfere with the regular educational activities of the school.
2. General information about time periods available for student meetings shall be made available to students upon request.
3. Students seeking permission to meet on school premises during non-instructional time must complete a form available in the Director's office indicating the name of the organization (if any), the nature of the organization, the purpose of the meeting and the time and place of the meeting.
4. Upon reviewing this information, the Director shall schedule the meeting if time and space is available. Requests shall be denied only in accordance with the board policy on meetings of non-curricular student organizations.
5. The Director shall verify that the students requesting permission for a meeting have made arrangements for a staff monitor an advisor and obtain whatever assurances are deemed necessary to see that the meeting is appropriately supervised.
6. Notices of meetings for non-curricular student organizations may only be posted on a designated bulletin board used by all non-school-sponsored organizations. No announcements shall be made over the public address system or in any school-sponsored publication.
7. The Director shall provide a fair opportunity to any students requesting permission to meet on school premises so long as time and space is available.
8. If a meeting request is denied by the Director, he/she shall inform the students of the reason for denial. The by requesting a review in writing within 10 days of the denial of the request.

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WAIVER: STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS (5133)

I. GOAL

To allow for more parent and teacher participation in student organizations that cooperate with the Academy's philosophy, which will result in more activities being offered .

II. DISTRICT POLICY

District Board Policy 5133

III. PROBLEM OR CONCERN

The concerns of this policy are the following:

- (Specific to the Academy's charter), We operate many of our programs with parent volunteers. Without parents being involved in our student organizations, we would be unable to offer many of our programs. Parent participation is essential to the success of our students in academics and student organizations requires parental involvement .
- The Academy's bonus plan includes student activities and volunteer time as criteria for bonuses.
- Allowing parents to regularly attend student activities is consistent with the Academy's charter (for example boy scouts, equestrian club, chess club, etc..)
- The Academy's budget and funding means the school is dependent on parent volunteers to offer student activities.

IV. REPLACEMENT LANGUAGE

See Attached

V. RATIONALE

This waiver will result in greater opportunities for our parents, board members, and staff to participate with students in all curricular and non-curricular activities. The Academy was founded to promote greater parental participation.

VI. DURATION

This waiver is being requested to be effective through June 30, 1997.

VII. FINANCIAL IMPACT

- The Academy budget will be impacted. A savings due to the volunteer nature of teachers and parents as opposed to paying teachers to attend and organize student activities.
- In the formation stages of these activities, an adult coordinator is often necessary to ensure the success of the student organizations.
- The Academy charter mission statement