

Lakeland Joint School District No. 272

STUDENTS

3225

Student Clubs : Equal Access

The Board of Trustees regards student clubs and organizations as an important part of the education and development of students. No school shall permit the organization of any extracurricular organization, activity, club or other organization of pupils under its jurisdiction, except when a formal application for the establishment of such organization is made to the administration of the school.

Definitions:

As used in this policy:

- (a) "School" shall mean any school in the Lakeland Joint School District.
- (b) "Club" shall mean a sponsored club of students of the school who wish to organize and meet to form common goals, objectives, or purposes, but does not include school activities.
- (c) "Sponsored Club" shall mean a club which is directly under the sponsorship, direction, and control of the school. Clubs are restricted to subjects offered at the school, supported by the school, and directed by school staff.
- (d) "Non-participating capacity" shall mean a person may not promote, lead or participate in any meeting.

The school within the district shall provide equal access and a fair opportunity for sponsored clubs to organize and to meet on school premises during the times established for such meetings.

Sponsored clubs shall be sponsored by a member of the faculty, staff, or administration of the school. The District shall not sponsor clubs which advocate particular religious or political beliefs or ideas. Any club whose activities are deemed by the principal to be disruptive of the everyday operations of the school will not be allowed to initiate meetings, nor continue to meet on school premises.

Equal Access Regulation

The following general guidelines will be observed in approving, establishing, and operating all clubs at Lakeland Joint School District schools.

1. Each proposed club must complete and submit a request form to the principal stating the name, specific purpose of the club, the membership requirements, the

activities of the club, and meeting dates and times, and any and all financial considerations for the club. Each proposed club shall have the student group perform a risk management assessment of the proposed club activities. The principal will forward the request to the Superintendent or superintendent designee for review. Once reviewed, the Superintendent shall submit the proposed club to the Board to either approve or deny the application.

2. Student participation in club activities and attendance at club meetings shall be voluntary and shall be limited to those students who are currently enrolled in the school district. All student groups meeting on school premises are required to open membership to all interested and/or eligible students. Clubs shall be allowed to meet on school premises before school, during the lunch period, and after school on days when school is in session. The time and place of all club meetings shall be subject to available space, conflicting activities programs, and the availability of the faculty sponsor or monitor. Students shall be responsible for ensuring the presence of a faculty sponsor prior to every meeting. Clubs will be allowed to meet on school premises during other times of the day only in extraordinary or exceptional circumstances as may be determined by the principal.
3. All clubs must comply with provisions of the school's student handbook.
4. No hazing of students shall be permitted.
5. The principal may deny the opportunity of any club to meet on school premises, and may deny permission of any non-school person to meet with or speak to a club on school premises, when there exists a substantial likelihood of material and substantial interference with the orderly conduct of educational activities within the school, or if the meeting or activities in the meeting are, or will be, in violation of any district policy, law, or ordinance.
6. The principal may temporarily or permanently terminate the opportunity of any club to meet on school premises, in the future, if the club has materially or substantially interfered with the orderly conduct of educational activities within the school, if the activities of the club have violated any law or ordinance, or if the club has violated any provision of any district policy.

For sponsored clubs, the following guidelines will apply:

- A. Each sponsored club will have a faculty or staff member appointed as sponsor. The sponsorship shall be approved by the principal.
- B. All activities of the club must have prior approval of the sponsor.
- C. Club funds shall be subject to deposit, audit and disbursement in accordance with the regulations of the school district. In the event a club collects any funds,

all funds must be turned into the school office to be deposited into the club's account. Requests for the expenditure of club funds may be made through the club officers and the sponsor with final approval of principal.

- D. The content and placement of club posters or advertisements shall be approved by the principal.

Legal Reference: 20 U.S.C. §§ 4071-4074

Equal Access Act

Policy History:

Adopted on:

Revised on: December 14, 2022

Prior District Policy Article VII, Section A and Article VI, Section M.