

The Parma school district regards student clubs and organizations as an important part of the education and development of students.

DEFINITIONS

As used in this policy:

“Academic clubs” shall mean clubs associated with a particular academic course or subject area offered in the high school. Such clubs are open to all students wishing to participate, and are held at times outside the regular classroom day on a voluntary basis for those wishing participation. Such clubs may sponsor activities to supplement the existing class course work. Such activities will be held at times when school is not regularly in session. Participation in such clubs is voluntary and is not permitted to take time out of the regular classroom for organization or implementation of any activities.

“Club” shall mean a sponsored club or a non-sponsored or non-curriculum group of students of the school who wish to organize and meet to form common goals, objectives, or purposes, but do not include school activities.

“Fraternities, sororities and secret societies” shall mean those organizations whose active memberships are comprised in whole or in part of enrolled students, who are selected on the basis of the decision of the organizations’ membership rather than on the basis of the right of any qualified student to be a member.

“Limited open forum” shall mean a public secondary school that grants an offering to or opportunity for one or more non-curriculum related student groups to meet on school premises during non-instructional time.

“Non-sponsored or non-curriculum club” shall mean a student initiated club which is not under the sponsorship, direction or control of the school or any student initiated club that does not directly relate to the body of courses offered by the school.

“Non-participating capacity” shall mean a person, including a sponsor or monitor, who does not promote, lead or participate in any meeting.

“School” shall mean any school in the [name] school district.

“Sponsored club” shall mean a club which is directly under the sponsorship, direction and control of the school.

“Sports club” shall mean a club comprised of students within the school who participate in non-Idaho High School Activities Association (IHSAA) competitions or activities. Students are not permitted to miss school to participate as may be accorded IHSAA sponsored activities.

“Vocational club” shall mean a club associated with a district vocational program.

LIMITED OPEN FORUM

The board of trustees of this district has established a limited open forum. Accordingly, school officials will not deny equal access or a fair opportunity to, or discriminate against, any students who wish to conduct a meeting on the basis of the religious, political, philosophical, or other content of the speech at such meetings.

School officials shall uniformly enforce the following general guidelines in approving, establishing and operating student clubs:

1. All student organizations and clubs in the district’s schools must receive prior approval upon petition signed by the proposed club officers, staff sponsor or monitor, and administration of the representative school to the board.
2. The district may sponsor academic or vocational clubs.
3. The district shall not sponsor clubs which advocate particular religious or political beliefs or ideas, but may approve them. Any such clubs shall be non-sponsored or non-curriculum. The school and the district shall not be identified or associated with the goals, policies, objectives, activities, beliefs or opinions of any non-sponsored or non-curriculum clubs or its members except approved sports clubs.
4. The district shall not sponsor sports clubs, but may approve them. Any such clubs shall be non-sponsored. Such clubs are permitted to use the school name, mascot and logo as part of their program.
5. No fraternities, sororities or secret societies are allowed in the district’s schools.
6. 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 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 from 7:00 am to 8:00 am, during the noon hour, and from 3:30 pm to 5:00 pm on days when school is in session. The time and place of all club meetings shall be subject to available space, conflicting activities and programs, and the availability of the faculty sponsor or monitor. Students shall be responsible for ensuring the presence of a faculty sponsor or monitor 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 or designee.
7. All clubs must comply with provisions of the schools’ student constitution, if applicable.
8. No hazing of students shall be permitted.

9. Approved student organizations or clubs will have the right, within established guidelines set forth in this policy, to use available school facilities; to share available bulletin board space in order to publicize activities; and to distribute notices to publicize approved activities. Club flags and mascots may be displayed only during approved club meetings and activities, unless otherwise approved by the principal or designee.
10. The principal or designee 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, where 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 law or ordinance.
11. The principal or designee 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 this policy.

For sponsored clubs, the following guidelines will apply:

1. Each sponsored club will have a faculty or staff member appointed as a sponsor. The sponsorship must be approved by the principal or designee.
2. All activities of the club must have prior approval of the sponsor.
3. Club funds shall be subject to deposit, audit and disbursement in accordance with the regulations of the school district.
4. The content and placement of club posters or advertisements shall be approved by the club sponsor.

For non-sponsored or non-curriculum clubs, the following guidelines will apply:

1. The formation of non-sponsored or non-curriculum clubs shall be student initiated. Non-school persons may not direct, conduct, control, or regularly attend activities.
2. Recognition by the school district of a non-sponsored or non-curriculum club is not an endorsement of the aims, policies, or opinions of the student organization or its members.
3. The school or district's name will not be identified with the aims, policies, or opinions of the student organization or its members.
4. Notices of meetings of non-curricular student organizations may be posted only on a designated bulletin board used by non-school sponsored organizations. No announcements shall be made over the public address system or in any school-sponsored publications.

5. No funds will be expended by the school for any such meeting beyond the incidental cost associated with providing a meeting place.
6. Every club must have a district employee volunteer as a monitor to the club. The monitor shall be responsible for monitoring the meetings to assure that attendance at the meetings is voluntary, to assure that the meetings do not materially and substantially interfere with the orderly conduct of educational activities within the school, and to assure that order and discipline are maintained. Monitors shall attend the meetings of non-sponsored or non-curriculum clubs that are political or religious in nature in a non-participating capacity.
7. No school employee shall be compelled to be a monitor of a non-sponsored or non-curriculum club.
8. Club posters or flyers need to have a disclaimer, and poster content and placement shall be approved by the principal or designee. Club flags and mascots may be displayed only during approved meetings and activities, unless otherwise approved by the principal or designee.
9. The school district shall not be identified or associated in any way with the goals, objectives, activities, or opinions of any non-sponsored or non-curriculum clubs to raise money.



LEGAL REFERENCE:

Equal Access Act, 20 U.S.C. §§4071 – 4074

Idaho Code §33-1901 *et seq.* (Fraternities, Sororities and Secret Societies Prohibited in Elementary and Secondary Schools)

ADOPTED: March 10, 2008

AMENDED: January 11, 2021