

RELATIONS WITH EDUCATIONAL PARTNERSHIP ORGANIZATIONS

The Board of Education welcomes the assistance of educational partnership organizations that is offered, accepted and provided in accordance with this policy. As applicable, the terms of this policy shall also apply to members of the public who are not affiliated with an educational partnership organization but otherwise engage in activities similar to those described in the following paragraph. The Board seeks to encourage and strengthen relationships with educational partnership organizations in order to reach common educational goals.

Educational partnership organizations are defined as formally or informally organized educational groups that are not part of the district and that engage in an educational activity to support one or more programs at one or more schools. Such organizations support the curriculum, are sponsored by a group who are not acting as district employees, and are not district-sponsored.

Educational partnership organizations must be approved and authorized by the district enrichment coordinator or designee and will only be authorized if the organization's purpose, activities and communications are consistent with the district's educational mission and programs.

In addition to being subject to all laws and the educational partnership organizations own rules, by-laws, constitution, policies, etc., the organization and its members shall comply with this policy and all other applicable Board policies and regulations.

For consideration to become an educational partnership organization, background checks are required for all coaches and/or volunteers working directly with students and must be conducted by a third party entity that conducts background screenings in accordance with various regulatory agency requirements. The background checks for individuals must date back at least seven years for arrests and convictions and must include the following components: State criminal repository, DOJ 50 state sex offender, and enhanced nation-wide criminal search. Proof of background check shall be provided to the district enrichment coordinator. This background check requirement is not meant to discourage or offend prospective volunteers, but rather to help ensure the safety and welfare of district students.

Educational partnership organizations shall provide written notice to the district enrichment coordinator or designee of the individual serving as its leader and volunteer(s) and provide written notice of any changes which may occur.

If the educational partnership organization receives or expends monies from students, it shall maintain records documenting all receipts and expenditures and may be subject to audits to ensure consistency in records at any time throughout the active season and during the calendar year.

Educational partnership organizations shall be permitted to use the name and mascot of the school(s) they support in connection with activities conducted in accordance with applicable laws, association bylaws and rules, Board policies and regulations, and approval of the principal or designee.

If the activity is to take place in a district location, including but not limited to meetings, practices, and tournaments, a facility use agreement is to be executed. Educational partnership organizations who wish to use district facilities will adhere to the guidelines established in

Board Policy KF and Board Regulation KF-R.

The educational partnership organizations will operate independently of the district. In doing so, these teams/groups will inform parents and participants in writing prior to the season's start of their status as non-district-sponsored and that the team is not an entity of the district, its schools, or its employees. All written material about a non-district sponsored organization's activity must contain the following disclaimer:

"This activity or program is conducted by an educational partnership organization and although the district and its individual schools may provide some limited coordination or support to the activity or program, neither the district nor its individual schools sponsor, control, direct or supervise the activities or programs, or screen or supervise participating coaches and volunteers, even though a teacher or staff member may be involved with the activity or program during off-duty time. The district is not responsible in any way for any injuries, losses or damages associated with, caused by, or related to the trip or participation in the activity."

District employees who are involved with or participate in an educational partnership organization understand that their participation is separate from their duties as an employee and will have to rely on their own personal insurance coverage as remedy for any injuries, losses or damages they suffer personally or any claims brought against them by others as a result of their involvement and/or participation in any phase of that activity.

Before the organization and/or team begin the season, proof of at least \$1,000,000 general liability coverage must be provided to the district enrichment coordinator or designee. The district's insurance policies do not cover an educational partnership organization, its staff, members or volunteers. The district is not liable or responsible for loss of their property or money, or the decisions made by an educational partnership organization, its board, staff, members or volunteers.

Educational partnership organizations meeting these criteria must sign and complete the "Agreement for Partnership" form before the beginning of the season. Upon submission of the form and approval by the enrichment coordinator or designee, the organization shall be an officially recognized educational partnership organization.

Adopted May 21, 2014

Cross refs.: JJA, Student Organizations
KF, Community Use of School and District Facilities
KJ, School Volunteers