

1                                   **STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS, CO-CURRICULAR PROGRAMS**  
2                                   **AND EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES**  
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4 **I. Generally**  
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6 In accordance with Policy JB: *Nondiscrimination in Education*, students have the right to  
7 equitable access to programs, activities, and events including, but not limited to,  
8 acknowledgements, dances, assemblies, after-school programs, extracurricular activities,  
9 intramurals, non-competitive sports leagues and field trips. For any school program, event, or  
10 activity, including extra-curricular activities that are segregated by gender, ACPS allows  
11 students to participate in a manner consistent with their gender identity.  
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13 Interscholastic athletic participation regulated by the Virginia High School League (VHSL)  
14 or another organization, such as the Virginia Scholastic Rowing Association (VASRA), is  
15 operated in compliance with the policies and rules outlined by that organization.  
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17 **II. Student Organizations: Secondary Schools**  
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19 ACPS supports the organization and operation of student organizations in its secondary  
20 schools and permits such organizations to meet on school premises during non-instructional  
21 time.  
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23 **A. Curriculum-Related Student Organizations**  
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25 While public school facilities are devoted primarily to instructional programs and school-  
26 sponsored activities, curriculum-related student organizations:  
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- 28 · Are an extension of the regular school program ;
  - 29 · Enhance the participants' educational experience;
  - 30 · Supplement the course materials within the educational program of the schools; and
  - 31 · Promote activities that bear a clear relationship to the regular curriculum.
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33 The principal determines whether the organization meets the above criteria. The principal  
34 approves organizations that meet the above criteria and officially recognizes them as  
35 school-sponsored student organizations.  
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37 **B. Noncurriculum-Related Student Groups**  
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39 Secondary school students may also organize and conduct meetings of noncurriculum-  
40 related student groups to pursue activities outside of the school curriculum, subject to the  
41 provisions of this policy. Such groups may use school facilities provided that:  
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- 43 · The group's meetings are voluntary and student initiated;
- 44 · The group is not sponsored by the school, the government, or any government  
45 agent or employee;

- 46           • Agents or employees of the school or government are present at religious
- 47           meetings only in a nonparticipatory capacity;
- 48           • Meetings do not materially and substantially interfere with the orderly conduct of
- 49           educational activities at the school; and
- 50           • Nonschool persons do not direct, conduct, control, or regularly attend activities of
- 51           the group, except that the faculty supervisor, appointed by the principal, attends
- 52           all meetings.

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54           Non-curriculum-related student organizations are not designated as school-sponsored or  
55           endorsed. The fact that such organizations may hold meetings under this policy does not  
56           constitute an expression of school division support for the purposes of such organizations  
57           or the content of any meetings thereof.

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59           **C. Meetings of Student Organizations**

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61           All student organizations may meet on school premises during non-instructional time as  
62           designated by the school principal. ACPS does not deny any student organization equal  
63           access to school facilities during designated meeting times on the basis of the religious,  
64           political, philosophical, or other content of the speech at the organization’s meetings.  
65           ACPS does not extend any public funding or support to any non-curriculum-related  
66           student group, other than the opportunity to meet on school premises on an equal basis as  
67           other student organizations.

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69           Each school principal develops procedures for scheduling meetings of student  
70           organizations and determining the times and places which are available for such  
71           meetings. Meeting times are limited to non-instructional time before or after regular  
72           classroom hours or during established activities periods. These guidelines are made  
73           available to all students. Student organizations wishing to conduct meetings under this  
74           policy may submit applications to the principal or designee for permission in accordance  
75           with Division procedures.

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77           **D. Faculty Supervision**

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79           The principal appoints one or more members of the school faculty to sponsor and  
80           supervise each curriculum-related student organization. Faculty sponsors participate in  
81           the supervision and direction of all activities of the organization and attend all meetings  
82           and activities.

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84           Non-curriculum-related student organizations do not have a faculty sponsor. However, a  
85           member of the school's staff attends every meeting or activity of such organizations in a  
86           non-participatory capacity for purposes of general supervision. The organization is  
87           responsible for assuring the presence of a staff member for its meetings.

88  
89           ACPS does not compel any school employee to attend a meeting of any student  
90           organization if the content of such meeting is contrary to the beliefs of that school  
91           employee. School employees present at any meeting of a non-curriculum-related student

92 organization that includes religious worship, prayer, or practice, or is identified as having  
 93 a religious purpose, attends in a non-participatory capacity only.

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95 **III. Membership and Participation in Student Organizations and Activities**

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97 Membership in all student organizations shall be open to and limited to all students currently  
 98 enrolled in the sponsoring school on a voluntary basis. Student organizations may establish  
 99 academic qualifications for membership where necessarily related to the purposes of the  
 100 organization. Student organizations and activities may not deny students membership on  
 101 account of their race, creed, color, national origin, ancestry, ethnicity, disability, religion,  
 102 political affiliation, sex, sexual orientation, gender, gender identity, gender expression, age,  
 103 pregnancy, childbirth or related medical conditions, marital or parental status, genetic  
 104 information or military status, except for participation in interscholastic athletic activities  
 105 specifically regulated by outside organizations (noted in Section I of this policy).

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107 **IV. Compliance with Law and Policy**

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109 Student organizations may not engage in any activity which is contrary to law, Division  
 110 policy or school rules; which disrupts or clearly threatens to disrupt the orderly operation of  
 111 the school; or which would adversely affect the health, safety, or welfare of any students or  
 112 staff members. Failure to comply with these provisions shall be grounds for disciplinary  
 113 action.

114

- 115 Adopted: January 9, 1997
- 116 Amended: July 1, 2005
- 117 Amended: January 22, 2015
- 118 Amended: October 7, 2021

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120 Legal Refs.: 20 USC § 4071.

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122 Title IX, Education Amendments of 1972.

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124 34 C.F.R. Parts 101 and 106.

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126 Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended, § 22.1-23.3.

- 127 Cross Refs.: IGDAA Grade Average Requirement for Eligibility to Participate in
- 128 Athletic and Co-Curricular Programs
- 129 IICA Field Trips
- 130 IICA-R Field Trip Procedures
- 131 JB Nondiscrimination in Education
- 132 JB-R/JFHA-R Procedures for Investigating Student Complaints of
- 133 Discrimination, Harassment and Bullying
- 134 JFB Student Involvement in Decision Making
- 135 JFCB Sportsmanship, Ethics and Integrity
- 136 KF Distribution of Information/Materials

137	KF-R	Regulations for Distribution of Information/Materials in Schools
138	KG	Community Use of School Facilities
139	KG-R	Community Use of School Facilities Regulations and Application