

POLICY – NON-CURRICULUM RELATED STUDENT GROUPS

2153

The Board recognizes the Equal Access Act which requires a secondary school to permit a group of students to conduct non-curriculum related meeting(s) during non-instructional time subject to the approval of the principal. Such approval is granted provided that activities of the group are not disruptive to school operations and the members of the group comply with the rules established by the Superintendent and/or school principals. The Board authorizes the Superintendent to develop administrative procedures to create or maintain a "limited open forum."

The principal shall approve the non-curriculum related student meeting or activity provided that:

1. The meeting shall be voluntary and initiated by students.
2. The school or its staff shall not be a sponsor of the group.
3. The meeting will not materially and substantially interfere with the orderly operation of the school.
4. Students shall be responsible for the direction, control and conduct of the meeting. Guests must be registered and must not be regular participants.
5. Students shall not be required to participate in any religious activity.
6. The use of public funds for other than incidental and/or monitoring costs shall not be permitted. Funds acquired by non-curriculum related student groups shall be held in an associated student body account which shall be accessible by that student group. All funds acquired will be handled in a manner consistent with other associated student body accounts in that school. Non-curriculum related student groups are required to adhere to the same budget and purchasing rules that are applied to other associated student body clubs.
7. A staff member shall not be compelled to attend when the meeting is contrary to his/her belief.
8. The constitutional rights of any person shall not be abridged.

The principal shall be responsible for the assignment of a room and for the approval and/or assignment of a staff member to monitor the meeting.

Cross Reference:	Policy 2150 Policy 3201	Co-Curricular Program Religion in the Schools
Legal References:	P.L. 98-377	Equal Access Act Title VIII
Adopted:	June 16, 1986	North Thurston School District Board of Directors
Amended:	April 1, 2003 October 4, 2004	
Reviewed:	October 20, 2010	North Thurston Public Schools Board of Directors