

1 Great Falls School District

2  
3 **STUDENTS**

3550

4  
5 Student Clubs

6  
7 The Board recognizes that student clubs are a helpful resource for schools and supports their  
8 formation. Student clubs must complete an application process. The Superintendent or designee  
9 is delegated the authority to approve or deny club applications.

10  
11 This policy shall be made available to all interested individuals upon request and posted on the  
12 District's website. Information about the nature and purpose of student clubs and groups meeting  
13 at the school and methods to consent to participation or opt out of participation will be provided  
14 to parents and families in print or electronic format, consistent with parent/family rights.

15  
16 Recognized Student Clubs and Organizations

17  
18 The Board of Trustees authorizes the administration to approve and recognize curricular student  
19 clubs or organizations in the manner consistent with this policy and administrative procedure.  
20 Curricular student clubs are those approved student clubs that directly relate to the body of  
21 courses offered by the school. Curricular student clubs that are recognized by the District may be  
22 permitted to use District facilities, use of the District's name, a District school's name, or a  
23 District school's team name or any logo attributable to the District, and raise and deposit funds  
24 with the District.

25  
26 In order for the administration to approve and recognize a curricular student club the group must  
27 submit an application to the building administrator containing the following:

- 28
- 29 • The organization's name and purpose;
  - 30 • The portion of the curriculum that forms the basis of the club or the course offered at the  
31 school enhanced by the club's functions, must be identified. This step is required for  
32 consideration as a curricular club. Applications that do not satisfy this step may be  
33 permitted to meet at the school as a non-curricular student group.
  - 34 • The staff employee designated to serve as the group's advisor;
  - 35 • The rules and procedures under which it operates;
  - 36 • A statement that the membership will adhere to applicable Board policies and  
37 administrative procedures; and.
  - 38 • A statement that membership is open and unrestricted, and the organization will not  
39 engage in discrimination based on someone's innate characteristics or membership in a  
40 protected classification.

41  
42 Buildings will maintain a current list of approved and recognized clubs and make them available  
43 upon request.

44

1 Upon approval of a new curricular student club, the administration will notify the District clerk  
 2 so the group may have any funds raised for its operations designated in accordance with the  
 3 District's financial practices, to include Board approval.

4  
 5 Approved curricular student clubs will appear in the student handbook and other appropriate  
 6 district publications. Advisors of new student clubs may be eligible for a stipend in accordance  
 7 with applicable collective bargaining agreement provisions and available district resources.  
 8 Approved curricular student clubs may also have limited access as designated by the  
 9 administration to distribute messages through official communications of the District (e.g.  
 10 intercom announcements, District newsletters, group emails, etc.)

#### 11 Career and Technical Student Curricular Clubs Performance Grants

12  
 13  
 14 The Board of Trustees authorizes approved chapters of the following Career and Technical  
 15 Student Curricular Clubs within the District to apply for performance grants distributed by the  
 16 Office of Public Instruction in accordance with Section 20-7-320, MCA:

- 17 a) Montana HOSA: Future Health Professionals;
- 18 b) Montana BPA: Business Professionals of America;
- 19 c) Montana DECA: Distributive Education Clubs of America;
- 20 d) Montana FFA: Future Farmers of America;
- 21 e) Montana TSA: Technology Student Association;
- 22 f) SkillsUSA Montana; and
- 23 g) Montana FCCLA: Family, Career and Community Leaders of America

24  
 25  
 26 Any application submitted under this provision shall be reviewed and approved prior to  
 27 submission by the club advisor, building principal, and Superintendent or designee.

#### 28 Non-Curricular Student Groups

29  
 30  
 31 Student-led and initiated groups of similar interests that do not meet the requirements to be an  
 32 approved curricular student club as outlined in this policy shall be designated as noncurricular  
 33 student groups. Noncurricular student groups include any student group that do not directly relate  
 34 to the body of courses offered by the District but has a regular meeting schedule and established  
 35 operational structure. Student meetings must be supervised by an adult. District employees that  
 36 are present at meetings in a supervisory capacity are not eligible for compensation.

37  
 38 The District approves a limited open forum, within the meaning of that term as defined 20 U.S.  
 39 Code § 4071, for non-curricular student groups to meet on school premises during non-  
 40 instructional time. Noncurricular student groups wishing to conduct a meeting within this limited  
 41 forum are subject to the following fair opportunity criteria, which shall be uniformly  
 42 administered consistent with 20 U.S. Code § 4071:

- 43 1. All such meetings must be voluntary and student-initiated;
- 44 2. There shall be no sponsorship of the meeting by the District or its agents or employees;
- 45

3. Employees or agents of the District that are present at religious meetings must be only in a nonparticipatory capacity;
4. All meetings must not materially and substantially interfere with the orderly conduct of educational activities within the District; and
5. Non-school persons may not direct, conduct, control, or regularly attend activities of the non-curricular student groups.

Meeting is defined as a gathering of a group of students for the purposes of discussing group beliefs or engaging in group operations. An event that does not meet this definition will be required to comply with the Community Use of District Facilities Policy and Procedure.

### Fundraising

Noncurricular student groups may post notice of gatherings in accordance with Policy 3222. Noncurricular student groups may be authorized by the Superintendent or designee to have the name of the school to appear as part of their group's name. A logo attributable to the school or District, the District's name, or the school's team name or mascot may not be used by a noncurricular group. The permission to post notice of gatherings or use the school name does not constitute sponsorship of the group by the District.

### Informal Gatherings

Students are permitted to informally gather at the school in accordance with Policy 3233. Informal gatherings of students are not permitted to use the District's name, a District school's name, or a District school's team name or mascot, or any logo attributable to the District, and raise and deposit funds with the District. Informal student gatherings may not post notices or other materials in accordance with Policy 3222 but may request to post items in accordance with Policy 4331.

### Financial Operations

All funds raised by recognized student clubs are subject to applicable School District policies regarding financial management. All funds raised by recognized student clubs that are donated to the School District become public funds when placed in a School District account. All public funds must be monitored in accordance with state law. Deposits must be reviewed to ensure compliance with equity rules, amateur rules and appropriateness under District policy.

Funds spent by the School District will be done in accordance with District purchase order policy and spending limits regardless of the source of the donation. All expenditures should be preapproved to ensure equity and auditing standards are met.

The administration is authorized to develop procedures to implement this policy.

### Cross References:

Policy 2132	Family Educational and Privacy Rights
Policy 2158	Family Engagement and Involvement in Education

- 1 Policy 2332 Religion and Religious Activities
- 2 Policy 3210 Equal Education and Nondiscrimination
- 3 Policy 3222 Distribution and Posting Materials
- 4 Policy 3233 Student Use of Building – Equal Access
- 5 Policy 4331 Use of School Property for Posting Notices

6

7 Legal References:

- 8 20 U.S. Code § 4071 Denial of Equal Access Prohibited
- 9 § 20-5-203, MCA Secret Organization Prohibited
- 10 § 20-7-320, MCA Career and Technical Student Organizations
- 11 § 40-6-701, MCA Fundamental Parental
- 12 § 40-6-701(1), MCA Parental Rights
- 13 Title 20, Chapter 3, Part 3 Board of Trustees
- 14 Chapter 693 (2023) Parental Rights
- 15 Chapter 706 (2023) CTE Organization Grants

16

17 Policy History

18 Adopted on: January 27, 2020

19 Revised on: August 23, 2021

20 Revised on: August 21, 2023