



Student Clubs

This presentation is a summary and does remove you from your responsibility to know and abide by all information contained in BISD Board Policies FNAB(LEGAL), FNAB(LOCAL), FNAA(LEGAL), FNAA(LOCAL)



Curricular and Non-curricular Student Clubs

Curricular Clubs: These are school sponsored “clubs” that address part of the district curriculum. For example, if you have an AVID class, or imbed the AVID curriculum into classes, and you have an AVID club.

Non-Curricular Student Clubs: These non-school sponsored clubs that usually address student interests and not the district curriculum.



Defining a Non-Curricular Club

"Non curriculum-related student group" means any student group that does not directly relate to the body of courses offered by the school. A student group directly relates to the school's curriculum if it meets any of the following criteria:

The subject matter of the group is actually taught or will soon be taught in a regularly offered course.

The subject matter of the group concerns the body of courses as a whole.

Participation in the group is required for a particular course.

Participation in the group results in academic credit.

Westside Cmty. Sch. v. Mergens, 496 U.S. 226 (1990)



Curricular and Non-curricular Student Clubs

Curricular Clubs

- The teacher sponsor is acting in their capacity as a teacher
- The teacher sponsor may receive a stipend for their sponsorship or a class period in the school day to facilitate the student group
- While this group may at times be student led, the teacher sponsor can promote, lead or participate in meetings of this student group.

Non-curricular Student Clubs

- The teacher “sponsor” is acting as a monitor
- The teacher sponsor shall not promote, lead, or participate in the meetings of non curriculum-related student groups *FNAB(LOCAL)*
- This group is always student led
- These clubs are only available secondary school students *FNAB(LOCAL)*



More About Non-curricular Student Clubs

Students may request permission from the campus principal to form a non-curriculum related student group. They may request permission for the group to meet on school premises during non-instructional time. **Students must file a written request with the principal using a form provided by the district.**

The principal shall approve or reject the request within seven school days.

If approved, the **meetings must occur during non-instructional time.** The principal shall assign each approved group an appropriate location and time.

Approval to meet as a non sponsored, non curriculum related group shall be granted for **one school year at a time.** Students must “reapply” each year.

The non curricular student group must have a District employee that serves as a monitor. These groups cannot meet on school grounds without a monitor.



More About Non-curricular Student Clubs

Announcements and Publicity

- All non curricular student groups are given the same access for making announcements and publicizing their meeting activities. Requests for announcements or publicizing must be made by the students in the group. *FNAB(LOCAL)*
- The campus must have guidelines for this. *FNAB(LOCAL)*
- All nonschool literature intended for distribution by students on school campuses or other District premises shall be submitted to the principal for prior review and approval (unless the material is distributed within a limited open forum) *FNAAL(LOCAL)*
- The campus principal can designate specific times, locations, or means by which nonschool literature may be made available to students or may be distributed by students to other students *FNAAL(LOCAL)*
- The campus shall not be responsible for, nor shall the campus endorse, the contents of any nonschool literature distributed by students. *FNAAL(LOCAL)*



Freedom of Speech and Public School Students

Students do not have the right to unrestricted free speech in a public school.

The school may prohibit expression by students if:

1. It materially and substantially interferes with school activities;
2. It materially and substantially interferes with the rights of other students or teachers; or
3. The District can demonstrate reasonable cause to believe that the expression would engender material and substantial interference.

The school may subject student expression to prior screening.

The school may limit student expression in manner, place, or time by means of reasonable viewpoint-neutral regulations.

FNAAL (LEGAL)



Limited Open Forum

A District secondary school has a limited open forum for purposes of the Equal Access Act whenever the school grants an offering to or an opportunity for one or more non curriculum-related student groups to meet on school premises during non instructional time. 20 U.S.C. 4071(b) , FNAB(LLEGAL)

This creates an opportunity for student led groups to express ideas and opinions to other students in the student led group while they are meeting in their designated meeting place during non instructional time.

- These are the ideas of the students, not the campus or district
- The meeting is voluntary. The students may choose to attend the meeting or not. So, the students have a choice as to whether they will listen, participate, stay, leave, etc.
- This limited open forum does not exist outside of the designated meeting place and time



Best Practices

- If you allow school wide announcements from non curriculum related student groups, these should be limited to announcing the date, time, and location of the approved student group meeting.
- All students who apply for a non curriculum related club, should be provided information on the rules and procedures concerning these student led clubs prior to receiving approval.
- Any staff member who volunteers to monitor a non curriculum related club, should be provided information on the rules and procedures concerning these student led clubs prior to being assigned as a monitor for an approved club.
- Any literature (flyers) distributed by student members of a non curriculum related club should contain a disclaimer that states that the flyer was created by a non curriculum related student group and that the campus is not responsible for, nor does the campus endorse, the contents of any nonschool literature distributed by students.
- If the non curriculum related student group wants to hold an on campus activity outside of their designated approved meeting time and location, the campus should have a process for these groups to request approval for these activities from the principal.



Summary

- Secondary students may request to form a club and to have a meeting space for their club
- They must complete a written request on a District provided form and submit it to the principal
- These clubs are non-curricular clubs.
- These clubs are student led.
- These clubs must meet during non instructional time.
- These clubs must have a District staff member as a monitor.
- The monitor cannot promote, lead, or participate in the meetings.
- These clubs have a limited open forum when they are meeting during their designated meeting time and in their designated meeting location.
- The school may limit student expression in manner, place, or time by means of reasonable viewpoint-neutral regulations
- Students must re-request to have the club and to have a meeting space for their club each school year.