

STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS

The Board of Education recognizes the educational values inherent in student participation in the extracurricular life of the school, and supports the concept of the formation of student groups for such purposes as building sound social relationships, developing interests in an academic area, and gaining an understanding of the elements and responsibilities of good citizenship.

The superintendent of schools, with the aid of students, faculty and administration, is charged with developing procedures for registering and regulating student groups or clubs. Such procedures shall ensure that the district will register any group organized for a purpose not prohibited by Board policy, if such group submits a list of its members designated as contacts, a copy of its constitution and/or bylaws, and the constitution and bylaws of any off-campus organization with which it may be affiliated. Student groups may not restrict membership on the basis of actual or perceived race, color, weight, sex, gender, sexual orientation, national origin, ethnic group, disability, religion, religious practice, or other arbitrary criteria.

The Board may prohibit the formation of any clubs, including fraternities or sororities, or any other secret society, whose deliberations and activities have caused or created, or are likely to cause or create, a disruption of or interference with the school program, or whose activities are unlawful.

Administrative regulations governing the use of school facilities shall abide by the Equal Access Act in the creation of a "limited open forum." All noncurricula-related student activities, regardless of religious, political, philosophical or other content, shall have the same opportunities as any other such activity to operate on school grounds. To provide a fair opportunity to students who wish to conduct a meeting, the Board, in accordance with the provisions of the Equal Access Act, shall ensure that:

- (a) The meeting is voluntary and student-initiated;
- (b) There is no sponsorship of the meeting by the school or its agents or employees;
- (c) Employees or agents of the school are present at religious meetings only in a non-participatory capacity;
- (d) The meeting does not materially or substantially interfere with the orderly conduct of educational activities within the school; and
- (e) Non-school persons may not direct, conduct, control or regularly attend activities of student groups.

The granting of access to a particular group shall not be considered to be an endorsement by the district or its personnel of any group or its philosophy or beliefs.

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