LENAPE TECHNICAL SCHOOL

SECTION: PROGRAMS

TITLE: NON-CURRICULUM,NON-SCHOOL-SPONSORED, STUDENT-INITIATED GROUPS

ADOPTED: November 20, 2025

REVISED: January 15, 2026

	122.3. NON-CURRICULUM, NON-SCHOOL-SPONSORED, STUDENT-INITIATED GROUPS
Purpose	The school, by making a limited open forum available, provides the opportunity for **non-curriculum-related,** non-school-sponsored, **student-initiated** groups of secondary students to meet, without discrimination, on school premises during non-instructional time for the purpose of conducting a meeting regardless of the religious, political, philosophical or other content of the speech at such meetings.[1][2][3]
Definitions	**Non-instructional time** - the time set aside by the school before actual classroom instruction begins, after actual classroom instruction ends or during time designated for lunch. **Limited open forum** - a public secondary school has a limited open forum whenever such school grants an offering to or opportunity for one or more non-curriculum-related student groups to meet on school premises during non-instructional time.[1] **Non-curriculum-related student group - any student-initiated group that does not directly relate to the body of courses offered by the school.[4]** **Sponsorship - the act of promoting, leading or participating in a meeting. The assignment of a teacher, administrator or other school employee to a meeting for custodial purposes does not constitute sponsorship of the meeting.[5]**
Authority	Meetings of **non-curriculum** student groups must be voluntary, student-initiated and conducted in accordance with applicable state and federal laws, regulations, Joint Operating Committee policies and school rules.[1][2][3][6] Such meetings must not be **under the sponsorship of** the school, its agents or employees.[1] The meetings of student groups cannot materially and substantially interfere with the orderly conduct of the educational activities in the school.[1] Availability and assignment of facilities, supplies and equipment necessary, **including access to school-controlled methods of communication such as bulletin boards, a public-address system, and advertisements in the school**

	newspaper, to conduct such meetings shall be provided in accordance with the Equal Access Act.[1]
Delegation of Responsibility	The Administrative Director or designee may establish **standard** procedures regarding the length of meetings, permissible number of meetings per week and other limitations deemed reasonably necessary. The Administrative Director or designee will designate areas within school buildings and outside areas authorized for meetings of student groups. Access to areas which have not been designated as meeting spaces by the Administrative Director or designee is prohibited. A school employee will be assigned to attend and monitor each student group meeting. Monitors will attend the meetings in a non-participatory capacity for the purpose of maintaining order. The assignment of a monitor does not constitute sponsorship of the meeting.[1] School employees will not be required to attend any meeting where the content of the speech is contrary to their beliefs.[1] School administrators and staff retain the authority to:[1] 1. Maintain order and discipline on school premises. 2. Protect the well-being of students and employees. 3. Assure the attendance of students at such meetings is voluntary.
Guidelines	Students seeking permission to form a student group to meet during non-instructional time must submit a written request to the building administrator on the designated school form. All activities of the student group must be led by the student members of the group. The meetings and activities may not be directed, conducted, controlled or regularly attended by individuals from outside the school.[1] Guests may be invited but may not be regular participants in the student meetings. All guests must comply with Joint Operating Committee policy regarding school visitors.[7] Materials prepared for dissemination on school premises must comply with the provisions of Joint Operating Committee policy relating to the dissemination of materials.[8] The funds of the school may not be used for the operation of the meetings beyond the incidental cost of providing the space for the group to meet. The student group may not be advertised as a school-sponsored activity. All announcements and disseminated materials must include a disclaimer of school

	sponsorship or endorsement. Students in violation of this policy and applicable rules may result in loss of the right to meet on school premises and/or disciplinary action.[6] **PSBA Revised 11/25 © 2025 PSBA** Legal References 1. 20 U.S.C. 4071 et seq 2. Pol. 103 3. Pol. 103.1 4. Board of Education of Westside Community Schools v. Mergens, 496 U.S. 226 (1990) 5. 20 U.S.C. 4072 6. Pol. 218 7. Pol. 907 8. Pol. 220 Wolfe ex rel. Wolfe v. Twin Valley School District, No. 23-4501 (E.D. Pa. March 26, 2025), 2025 WL 920257 Copyright PSBA 2025