Student Organizations & Equal Access

Adopted: 12/08/1998 **| Last Revised**: 09/08/2026 **| Last Reviewed**: 09/08/2026

Because the district has established a limited open forum, the principal or designee shall not deny any student-initiated school group access to school facilities during noninstructional time on the basis of religious, political, philosophical, or any other content of speech to be addressed at such meetings.

Such meetings shall not interfere with regular school activities. The Superintendent or designee shall identify the noninstructional time period(s) set aside for meetings of student groups either before or after actual classroom instruction times.

Meetings may also be held during the lunch period.

Meetings held within the limited open forum shall entail no expenditure of public funds beyond the incidental cost of providing the meeting space.

Students shall leave the meeting place in a clean, orderly, and secure condition after their meetings. The Superintendent or designee may deny the use of facilities to any group that is believed will materially disrupt the school program or threaten the health and safety of students and staff.

Authorization for Student Groups

Any student wishing to create either a curriculum- or noncurriculum-related student group shall first request authorization from the principal or designee. The group shall provide the principal or designee with the following information:

1. Name of the organization and names of student contacts
2. A statement of the organization's purpose, objectives, and activities
3. A copy of the proposed bylaws of the student group, including a description of how officers will be selected, as well as the bylaws of any off-campus organization with which the group may be affiliated
4. The name of the proposed faculty advisor, if any
5. The proposed dates, times, and location of meetings
6. Any special equipment to be used
7. If a curriculum-related group, a statement of the relation of the club to the curriculum and/or instructional program

The principal or designee may establish school rules governing the meetings of curriculum-related groups, such as attendance or grade requirements. Such rules may vary depending on the group, such as whether or not academic credit is given for participation in the group.

Role of Staff Adviser

For any curriculum-related student group, the staff adviser shall provide guidance and teaching to students to ensure that the group's activities are aligned to the district's goals and objectives and shall provide supervision and leadership of the group. The principal shall have final authority in determining the assignment and role of the staff advisor.

For noncurriculum-related student groups, a staff advisor may be assigned voluntarily to observe meetings for purposes of maintaining order and protecting student safety. Staff advisors and other school employees shall not promote, lead, or participate in the meetings.

A school employee may refuse to attend a meeting of a student group if the content of the speech at the meeting is contrary to the employee's beliefs.

Policy Reference Disclaimer:

These references are not intended to be part of the policy itself, nor do they indicate the basis or authority for the Board to enact this policy. Instead, they are provided as additional resources for those interested in the subject matter of the policy.

Legal References:

STATE

CALIFORNIA CODE OF REGULATIONS

5 CCR 350 Fees not permitted

5 CCR 80413.3 Credential requirements; teachers with out-of-state credentials

EDUCATION CODE

200-280 Prohibition of discrimination

37220-37223 Holidays

38130-38139 Civic Center Act

48645.5 Former juvenile court school students; enrollment

48900 Grounds for suspension or expulsion

48907 Exercise of free expression; time, place, and manner rules and regulations

48930-48938 Student organizations

48950 Speech and other communication

49020-49023 Athletic programs; legislative intent, equal opportunity

52 Designation of secondary schools

53 Designation of high schools

PENAL CODE

627-627.10 Access to school premises

FEDERAL

UNITED STATES CODE

20 USC 4071-4074 Equal Access Act

20 USC 7904 School prayer

20 USC 7905 Boy Scouts equal access

36 USC 20101-240112Patriotic organizations

MANAGEMENT RESOURCES

COURT DECISIONS

Board of Education of Westside Community School District v. Mergens By and Through Mergens (1989, 8th Cir.) 867 F.2d 1076

Ceniceros v. Board of Trustees of the San Diego Unified School District (1997) 106 F.3d 878

Culbertson et al. v. Oakridge School District (2002) 258 F.3d 1061

Good News Club et al. v. Milford Central School (2001) 121 S.Ct. 2093

Hartzell v. Connell (1984) 35 Cal. 3d 899

Perumal et al v. Saddleback Valley Unified School District (1988) 198 Cal. App. 3d 64

Prince v. Jacoby (2001) 303 F.3d 1074

Student Coalition for Peace v. Lower Merion School District Board of Directors (1985) 776 F.2d. 431

WEBSITES

CSBA District and County Office of Education Legal Services https://legalservices.csba.org/#
California Attorney General's Office http://oag.ca.gov/
California Interscholastic Federation http://www.cifstate.org/
Council on Standards for International Educational Travel http://www.csiet.org/
U.S. Department of Education http://www.ed.gov/

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