STUDENT CLUBS

Purpose of Student Clubs

School District sponsored student clubs serve as valuable extracurricular extensions of the educational experience, offering students opportunities to explore their interests, develop leadership skills, and foster a sense of community within the school. These curricular and non-curricular clubs aim to enhance the overall learning environment, promote diversity, and support the educational vision of the district.

Student Clubs fall within three categories: 1) District sponsored student clubs that are curriculum related, 2) District sponsored student clubs that are non-curriculum-related, and 3) Student Initiated clubs pursuant to the Equal Access Act which may engage in religious, political, philosophical, or other lawful and constitutionally protected speech/activities.

District Sponsored Student Clubs

District sponsored clubs are clubs recognized by the building principals with staff advisors.

The District sponsors both curriculum related and non-curriculum related student clubs.

Student Initiated Equal Access Act Clubs

Student initiated clubs pursuant to the Equal Access Act are clubs formed at the initiative of students where the subject matter of the club falls within the scope of the Act.

The District recognizes that it is unlawful for any public secondary school which receives Federal financial assistance and which has a limited open forum to deny equal access or a fair opportunity to, or discriminate against, any students who wish to conduct a meeting within that limited open forum on the basis of the religious, political, philosophical, or other content of the speech at such meetings.

In accordance with the Equal Access Act, there should be **no difference** between the access, privileges, and responsibilities for **any non-curricular/non-curriculum related** student clubs (whether school-sponsored or not), **except** as otherwise noted in this policy.

The following must apply for a meeting of this nature to take place under the Equal Access Act (and for there to be a fair opportunity for such clubs):

- the meeting is voluntary and **student-initiated**;
- there is **no** sponsorship of the meeting by the District or employees;
- any employees of the District who may be in attendance at religious meetings are present **only** in a non-participatory capacity;

- the meeting does not materially and substantially interfere with the orderly conduct of educational activities within a school or the District; and
- non-school/non- District persons (or any outside persons) may not direct, conduct, control, or regularly attend activities of student groups.

Nothing in this policy shall be construed to permit the District or any agents or employees:

- to influence the form or content of any prayer or other religious activity;
- to require any person to participate in prayer or other religious activity;
- to expend public funds beyond the incidental cost of providing the space for student-initiated meetings; as such, no public resources should be used to support the club;
- to compel any District agent or employee to attend a school meeting if the content of the speech at the meeting is contrary to the beliefs of the agent or employee;
- to sanction meetings that are otherwise unlawful;
- to limit the rights of groups of students which are not of a specified numerical size; or
- to abridge the constitutional rights of any person.

Participation

All District sponsored student clubs must be conducted consistent with the District's educational philosophy and mission and also must be approved by the building principal. Student club participation and attendance is limited to District students and staff.

Student Initiated Clubs formed pursuant to the Equal Access Act shall operate consistent with the rights afforded by the law applicable to public school districts.

Club Advisor Requirements

District sponsored student clubs must have a District staff member serving as an advisor. This staff member will provide guidance and mentorship to the club's members, ensuring the club's activities align with the District's educational philosophy and mission. The District may prescribe rules, procedures, and forms to govern proposals for such clubs and advisor positions.

The District is not required to assign a staff member to serve as an advisor to student initiated clubs formed pursuant to the Equal Access Act; and such clubs are not required to have an adviser present, although 1) the School Administration reserves the right to require or assign an employee in order to maintain safety and order, and 2) any employees of the District who may be in attendance at religious meetings are present **only** in a non-participatory capacity.

Co-Sponsorship of Events with Outside Organizations

District sponsored student clubs are permitted to co-sponsor events, activities, or fundraisers with outside organizations with the permission of the building principal. Clubs may not represent the District at an off-campus event without the permission of the building principal.

District clubs and organizations authorized to co-sponsor events with outside organizations that may compromise the District's neutrality on external matters, along with any sponsorship by student initiated Equal Access Act clubs, must clearly indicate that the event is not endorsed by the District when publicizing it. District staff attending such events will be present solely to supervise student club members.

Flyers/Advertisements

All student club materials to be placed on or transmitted or distributed through District property or events must be approved by the school administration prior to posting, provided that nothing in the provision shall be deemed to permit abridgement of any club/club member's constitutionally protected speech rights.

A student-initiated club pursuant to the Equal Access Act may not be advertised as a school sponsored activity. All printed materials or advertisements must include a disclaimer of school sponsorship or endorsement.

Nothing in the Policy shall be deemed to give access to the schools (whether for District facilities or the distribution of materials or advertisements) to any <u>non</u>-student-initiated groups or other outside organizations. Such outside organizations' access remains governed by Policy 1330, as may be amended, and the law.

Fundraising

Fundraising activities for student clubs require written authorization from the building principal and may only be conducted by recognized District-sponsored student clubs and student-initiated clubs formed pursuant to the Equal Access Act. All fundraising activities must be in compliance District policy.

Student Club Oversight

The building principal or their designee shall regularly review District sponsored club activities to safeguard their alignment with the District's educational philosophy and mission and applicable laws.

Monitoring by the building principal of student initiated Equal Access Act student clubs shall be based upon compliance with the Equal Access Act and applicable laws.

The building principal or designee will maintain a process for monitoring and ensuring that student clubs operate in accordance with this policy. Clubs which do not adhere to this Policy may be disaffiliated from the District and/or will not be permitted to meet on school property or identify as a member school's extracurricular program.

The District retains the authority to ban unlawful groups, maintain discipline and order on school premises, protect the well-being of students and faculty, assure that students' attendance at

meetings is voluntary, and restrict groups that materially and substantially interfere with the orderly conduct of educational activities.