

## **STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS (Secondary Schools)**

The Board of Education shall permit the organization and operation of student organizations in the secondary schools and shall permit such organizations to meet on school premises during non-instructional time. The purpose of this policy is to establish criteria governing the operation of student organizations.

Curriculum-related student organizations shall serve as an extension of the regular school curriculum. Their function shall be to enhance the participants' educational experience and to supplement course materials within the educational program of the schools. The activities of these organizations should bear a clear relationship to the regular curriculum. Student organizations meeting these criteria and approved by the principal shall be deemed to be officially recognized, school sponsored student organizations.

Secondary school students also shall be permitted to organize and conduct meetings of noncurriculum-related student organizations to pursue activities outside of the school curriculum subject to the provisions of this policy. Such organizations must be student initiated and directed. School personnel, parents and any other persons who are not students enrolled in the school shall be prohibited from directing, controlling, conducting or regularly attending the meetings of such organizations.

Noncurriculum-related student organizations shall not be deemed to be school-sponsored or endorsed. The fact that such organizations shall be permitted to conduct meetings under this policy shall not constitute an expression of district support for the purposes of such organizations or the content of any meetings thereof.

Membership in all student organizations shall be open to and limited to all students currently enrolled in the sponsoring school on a voluntary basis. Student organizations may establish academic qualifications for membership where necessarily related to the purposes of the organization. No student shall be denied membership on account of his race, color, national origin or religion. Qualifications based on gender may be imposed only where necessary to preserve the health, safety or welfare of students or where gender is a bona fide integral qualification for the activities of the organization.

Curriculum-related organizations shall be sponsored and supervised by one or more members of the school faculty, approved by the principal. Faculty sponsors shall participate in the supervision and direction of all activities of the organization and shall attend all meetings.

Noncurriculum-related student organizations shall not have a faculty sponsor. However, a member of the school's professional staff shall serve as a monitor for purposes of general supervision. No school employee shall be compelled to attend a meeting of any student organization if the content of such meeting is contrary to his belief. School employees present at any meeting of a noncurriculum-related student organization shall attend in a non-participatory capacity only.

All student organizations shall have the right to meet on school premises during non-instructional time as designated by the school principal. No student organization shall be denied equal access to school facilities during designated meeting times on the basis of the religious, political, philosophical or other content of the speech at the meetings of such organizations.

No public funding or support shall be extended to any noncurriculum-related student organization other than the opportunity to meet on school premises on an equal basis as other student organizations.

The principal of each school shall develop rules concerning the procedure for scheduling meetings of student organizations and setting the time and facilities, which shall be available for such meetings. Meeting times shall be limited to non-instructional time before or after regular classroom hours. These rules shall be made available to all students. Student organizations wishing to conduct meetings under this policy must make application to the principal for permission in accordance with district procedures.

Student organizations shall not engage in any activity which is contrary to law, Board policy or school rules, which disrupts or clearly threaten to disrupt the orderly operation of the school, or which would adversely affect the health, safety or welfare of any students or staff members. Failure to comply with these provisions shall be grounds for revocation of the right to continue meeting under this policy.

Adopted September 16, 1988

Legal ref:       Equal Access Act  
                  CRS 22-1-117  
                  CRS 22-1-118  
                  20 USC 4071 et. seq.

Cross ref:       IHAL, Teaching About Religion in the Schools  
                  JJF, Student Activities Funds Management