

STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS (Secondary Schools)

Generally

Public school facilities are devoted primarily to instructional programs and school-sponsored activities. Curriculum-related student organizations are an extension of the regular school program. Their function is to enhance the participants' educational experience and supplement course materials. 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 may organize and conduct meetings of non-curriculum-related groups. Any secondary school which permits one or more non-curriculum-related student group to meet on school premises during non-instructional time will provide equal access to any students who wish to conduct a meeting without discrimination on the basis of the religious, political, philosophical, or other content of the speech at such meetings.

Non-curriculum-related student groups may use school facilities provided that

- the group's meetings are voluntary and student-initiated;
- the group is not sponsored by the school, the government, or any government agent or employee;
- agents or employees of the school or government are present at religious meetings only in a non-participatory capacity;
- meetings do not materially and substantially interfere with the orderly conduct of educational activities at the school; and
- nonschool persons do not direct, conduct, control, or regularly attend activities of the group.

Membership

Membership in all student -initiated organizations shall be open to and limited to all students currently enrolled in the sponsoring school on a voluntary basis. These 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 or her race, color, national origin or religion. Qualifications based on sex may be imposed only where based on competitive athletic skill or where the activity involved is a contact sport.

Meetings of Student Organizations

The principal of each school will determine the times and places which are available for the meetings of student organizations. The principal will also develop procedures for scheduling meetings of student organizations. Meeting times will be limited to non-instructional time. Student organizations wishing to conduct meetings under this policy must make application to the principal for permission in accordance with division procedures.

Faculty Involvement

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

Non-curriculum-related student organizations do not have a faculty sponsor. However, a member of the school's staff shall attend every meeting or activity of such organizations in a non-participatory capacity for purposes of general supervision. The organization is responsible for assuring the presence of a staff member for its meetings.

No school employee will be compelled to attend a meeting of any student organization if the content of such meeting is contrary to the beliefs of that school employee.
Compliance with Law and Policy

Student organizations shall not engage in any activity which is contrary to law, division policy, or school rules; which disrupts or clearly threatens 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 disciplinary action.

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Legal Ref.: 20 U.S.C. § 4071

Cross Refs.: KF Distribution of Information/Materials
KG Community Use of School Facilities
INDC Religion in Schools

06/12 ACPS

ALLEGHANY COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS