

**Greater Albany SD 8J
Board Policy**

Code: **IGDA**
Adopted: 11/22/84, 4/26/93
Revised/Readopted: 3/12/01, 8/13/07
Orig. Code(s): BP 5500, BP 5510

Student Organizations

The program of student organizations in the district is an integral part of the educational and instructional curriculum provided for students.

All school-sponsored teams, clubs, organizations and activities are organized after the appropriate approval of the administration and under the supervision of a designated coach, teacher advisor or administrator.

All students participating in school-sponsored activity programs will abide by the eligibility provisions and the responsibilities prescribed in the administrative regulations of the district, including the Student Activity Code. Coaches and advisors are responsible for communicating the guidelines for participation and supervising compliance to those guidelines.

The Board supports and encourages curriculum-related student organizations. District staff is directed to promote and facilitate such organizations and to use district resources as appropriate to support them. These groups shall be considered school-sponsored organizations.

Curriculum-related groups are defined as those that directly related to the body of courses offered by the school. Directly related means if the subject matter of the group is actually taught, or will soon be taught, in a regularly offered course; if the subject matter of the group concerns the body of courses as a whole; if participation in the group is required for a particular course; or if participation in the group results in academic credit.

Groups desiring status as a school-sponsored organization must apply for this status and be approved by the school administration. Such groups must have a school-approved advisor. School-sponsored groups may raise funds under the name of the school and must use student body accounts for group funds. Advisors of these organizations may participate, direct, organize and supervise the group.

The Board also recognizes the right of religious, political, philosophical or other student-initiated groups that are noncurricular to meet in high schools within the provisions of the Equal Access Act. These groups shall be designated as nonschool sponsored. Groups of students desirous of meeting at school as non-school sponsored groups must secure permission of the school administration, comply with the facility usage policies of the district and meet certain requirements common to all nonschool sponsored groups.

Nonschool sponsored groups may meet at school during noninstructional time. These groups must be student initiated, student sponsored and student led. They must secure an unpaid school approved staff volunteer to attend their meetings as a monitor but the staff member may act only in a custodial, nonparticipatory role. The administration of the school shall ensure compliance with the provisions of the Equal Access Act. Attendance by adult guests at such meetings shall be only on an infrequent basis and

only when approved in advance by the administration. No adult guest may attend a group meeting more than twice in one school year.

Nonschool sponsored groups shall not be endorsed or supported by the district. Public funds will not be expended for nonschool groups beyond the incidental cost of providing the space for student-initiated meetings. Groups that are not school sponsored may not use the school name or mascot in connection with fund-raising activities, raise funds at school or be portrayed in the school yearbook.

Student organizations shall have equal access to designated bulletin boards and the public address system to publicize their activities. Group meetings shall be scheduled in advance whenever possible. The time and place of all meetings will be arranged with the principal or designee.

The school administration shall develop a procedure for application for status as either a school-sponsored or nonschool sponsored student organizations.

School officials shall maintain order and discipline on school premises and will prohibit meetings which materially and substantially interfere with the orderly conduct of educational activities within the school. No meeting will be allowed which will be a hazard to persons or property or abridge the constitutional rights of any person. No secret society shall be allowed in the district.

The school administration may discontinue the privilege of a particular student group to meet at school if the provisions of this policy are violated. Student leaders of the club or group shall be notified of this loss of privilege and informed of appeal rights and the necessary steps to reapply for status as a school-sponsored or nonschool sponsored organization.

General complaints by students, parents or guardians¹ or members of the public about violations of this policy may be made following the steps stated in Board policy KL, Public Complaints.

END OF POLICY

Legal Reference(s):

[ORS 109.056](#)

[ORS 125.005\(4\)](#)

[ORS 125.300-125.325](#)

[ORS 339.880](#)

[ORS 339.885](#)

[ORS 419B.373](#)

[OAR 581-015-0005\(18\)](#)

[OAR 581-021-0050](#)

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¹As used in this policy, the term parent includes guardian or person in a parental relationship. The status and duties of a legal guardian are defined in ORS 125.005(4) and 125.300 - 125.325. The determination of whether an individual is acting in a parental relationship, for purposes of determining residency, depends on the evaluation of the factors listed in ORS 419B.373. The determination for other purposes depends on evaluation of those factors and a power of attorney executed pursuant to ORS 109.056. For special education student, parent also includes a surrogate parent, an adult student to whom rights have transferred and foster parent as defined in OAR 581-015-0005(18).

Equal Access Act, 20 U.S.C. Sections 4071-4074.

Lamb's Chapel v. Center Moriches Union Free S. D., 508 U.S. 384 2141 (1993).

Westside Community Board of Education v. Mergens, 496 U.S. 226 (1990).