

## Student Organizations

The district encourages curriculum-related student organizations. District staff will facilitate such organizations and district resources may be used to support them. The district also may support student organizations that are not directly curriculum related. An administrative regulation shall specify the criteria and procedures for the formation and conduct of district sponsored and non-district sponsored student groups and their use of district facilities.

Among other provisions, such regulations will require the assignment of at least one staff advisor to each student organization and strict adherence to the following restrictions:

1. Normal class activities shall not be interrupted;
2. The meeting shall not incite hazard to person or property;
3. No group which encourages or advocates the violation of federal laws, state laws, or school laws shall be granted use of school facilities; and
4. No speaker who encourages or advocates breaking the law shall be invited to speak.

Voluntary student-organized clubs that are not curriculum related may meet on school premises during noninstructional time. If the content of such a club's meetings is religious, political, or philosophical in nature, school staff may attend only in a nonparticipatory manner. Staff may be assigned to attend such meetings for custodial purposes only, but will not be compelled to attend a meeting if the content of the speech at the meeting is contrary to that person's beliefs.

The Equal Access Act preserves the authority of the school, its agents, and employees to maintain order and discipline on district premises, to protect the well-being of students and staff, and to assure their attendance at meetings is voluntary. These student groups, though not district sponsored, shall have the same opportunity to use district facilities as other non-curriculum-related student groups.

In a limited open forum<sup>1</sup> situation, schools may not deny equal access or fair opportunity to similarly situated student-initiated clubs, or discriminate against student-initiated clubs on the basis of religious, political, philosophical, or other content of the speech at such meetings. If the meetings are religious, the school may not influence the form of any religious activity.

END OF POLICY

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<sup>1</sup>A public secondary school has a limited open forum whenever such school grants an offering to or opportunity for one or more non-curriculum-related student groups to meet on school premises on non-instructional time.

**Legal Reference(s):**

[ORS 339.880](#)

[ORS 339.885](#)

[OAR 581-021-0050](#)

[OAR 581-021-0055](#)

Equal Access Act, 20 U.S.C. §§ 4071-4074 (2006).

Lamb's Chapel v. Center Moriches Unified Sch. Dist., 508 U.S. 384 (1993).

Westside Cmty. Bd. of Educ. v. Mergens, 496 U.S. 226 (1990).

**Cross Reference(s):**

IB - Freedom of Expression

JFI - Student Demonstrations and Petitions