

Student Organizations – Limited Open Forum

1. Limited Open Forum

Falls City School District #57 authorizes “limited open forum schools.” As such, the schools allow non-curriculum-related student groups to meet on school premises during the school day under the following procedures:

- a. All groups must be registered with the school through the principal or his or her designee;
- b. Groups shall be voluntary and student initiated. Non-curriculum-related groups are not sponsored by the school, the school district or employees. Sponsorship is defined as the act of promoting, leading or participating in a meeting. The assignment of a school employee to a meeting for custodial (supervisory) purposes does not constitute sponsorship. Employees may attend meetings that are religious in nature solely in a nonparticipatory capacity;
- c. Groups may not participate in any activity which interferes with the orderly conduct of educational activities within the school or which interferes with the activities of other groups or individual students;
- d. Groups may not be directed, controlled, conducted or regularly attended by non-school persons. Occasional attendance by outside resource persons will be permitted;
- e. Groups may only meet during non-instructional time. This time shall be defined by the principal and applied uniformly to all non-curriculum-related groups;
- f. The principal of each school will issue guidelines that apply to all non-curriculum-related groups regarding use of bulletin boards, distribution of materials, use of public address systems, recruitment activities and access to materials printed and distributed by the school;
- g. Voluntary student-organized clubs not directly related to the instructional program may meet on school premises during non-instructional time pursuant to the provisions of the Equal Access Act and to the terms of this policy;
- h. Schools shall be deemed to offer a fair opportunity to students who wish to conduct a meeting within its limited open forum if such school uniformly provides that:
 - (1) The meeting is voluntary and student-initiated;
 - (2) There is no sponsorship of the meeting by the school, the government or its employees;
 - (3) The employees or agents of the school or government are present at religious meetings only in a nonparticipatory capacity;

- (4) The meeting does not materially and substantially interfere with the orderly conduct of educational activities within the school; and
- (5) Nonschool persons may not direct, conduct, control or regularly attend activities of student groups.

2. Materials Distribution

Requests by individuals or groups to distribute pamphlets, booklets, flyers, brochures and other similar materials to students for classroom use or to take home shall be submitted to the school administration. Materials themselves as well as the proposed method of distribution shall be subject to review.

All materials shall be reviewed based on legitimate educational concerns. Such concerns include: the material is or may be defamatory; the material is inappropriate based on the age, grade level and/or maturity of the reading audience; the material is poorly written, inadequately researched, biased or prejudiced; the material contains information that is not factual; the material is not free of racial, ethnic, religious or sexual bias; or the material contains advertising that violates public school laws, rules and/or policy, is deemed inappropriate for students or that the public might reasonably perceive to bear the sanction or approval of the district.

The administration shall determine distribution procedures. Such procedures may include:

- a. Distribution to each student before or after class;
- b. Notification to students or parents of the availability of the materials in a specified location;
- c. Inclusion of materials in a direct mailing; or
- d. Solicitation of school-related groups such as parent organizations to disseminate materials.

The practice of distributing pamphlets, booklets, flyers, brochures and other similar materials shall be periodically reviewed to ensure that the mere volume of requests have not become an interruption to the educational process.

Definitions

1. The term “secondary school” means a public school which provides secondary education as determined by state law.
2. The term “sponsorship” includes the act of promoting, leading or participating in a meeting. The assignment of a teacher, administrator or other school employee to a meeting for custodial purposes does not constitute sponsorship of the meeting.
3. The term “meeting” includes those activities of the student groups which are permitted under a school’s limited open forum and are not directly related to the school curriculum.

4. The term “non-instructional-time” means time set aside by the school before actual classroom instruction begins or after actual classroom instruction ends.

END OF POLICY

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