

Student Organizations

Definitions

The term “secondary school” means a public school which provides secondary education as determined by state law.

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.

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.

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

1. Limited Open Forum

Hood River County High Schools are “limited open forum schools.” As such, the schools allow noncurriculum-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. Noncurriculum-related groups are not sponsored by the school, the 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 noncurriculum-related groups;
- f. The principal of each school will issue guidelines that apply to all noncurriculum-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) 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.