

Student Organizations

Student organizations will be encouraged when they meet the criteria of contributing to learning. Such organizations will operate within the framework of the law, Board policy, administrative rules, and the parameters of the learning program. When such organizations contribute to the learning environment, their establishment and operation will be facilitated in reasonable ways by district staff and through the use of district resources.

The building principal will develop general guidelines for student organizations. Among other provisions, such guidelines will require the assignment of at least one faculty advisor to each student organization and the approval by the Board of any student organization that requires the expenditure of budgeted funds or that may engage in activities of a divisive or controversial nature.

This policy applies to on-campus organizations. It is not intended to restrict the organization of students into groups which function apart from the school premises.

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.

Chartered Clubs

A club is a chartered organization of students within a school which is formed for the purpose of sharing common interests, performing service, or recognizing achievements. Clubs are an integral part of the educational program of the district. All clubs shall operate according to democratic procedures and shall not discriminate on the basis of race, sex, sexual orientation, religion, or national origin.

1. Chartering

All clubs must obtain approval of and be chartered by the student government and building principal. No club may be chartered unless it complies with this policy and the regulations of the superintendent.

2. Categories of Clubs

Clubs shall be either service, honorary, or interest clubs. Service clubs are clubs which are designated to provide service to the school or the community. Honorary clubs are clubs which grant membership to students on the basis of special achievement in attaining openly-published standards in defined areas of school life. Interest clubs may be organized in any areas of the curriculum of the school, or in any other areas which are regarded by the school as providing valuable experiences supplementary to educational programs, including opportunities to study political issues and to gain

understanding of the institutions of politics and government. Clubs shall not, however, promote any political party or political cause.

3. Membership

All students in a school shall be eligible for membership in any interest or service club. In the event applications exceed the predetermined membership number, a waiting list will be established or a second club shall be chartered. Members may not be selected by vote of the membership. Clubs from different schools may meet together if the adult supervisor of each club is present.

4. Meetings

- a. The meeting shall be scheduled in advance.
- b. Normal class activities shall not be disrupted.
- c. The meeting shall incite no hazard to person or property.
- d. The meeting shall be sponsored by school officials or an official school club or organization.
- e. No speaker who openly and knowingly advocates breaking the law or encourages immoral acts shall be invited to speak.
- f. If a crowd is anticipated, a crowd control plan shall be filed in the appropriate office well in advance of the meeting.
- g. Every attempt shall be made to present a balance of viewpoints.

5. Clubs Sponsored by Nationally Established or Adult Service Organizations

Clubs may be chartered which are sponsored by adult service organizations with regular youth service programs compatible with the goals of the school's club program or by nationally established organizations devoted to serving youth whose programs are compatible with the goals of the school's club program. Clubs sponsored by organizations which have secret rites shall not be chartered.

Nonchartered Clubs

Students may meet on school premises to express and espouse views in the exercise of their right of free expression. Participation shall be open to all students without regard to race, sex, sexual orientation, religion, or national origin. If students use the name of the school for identification of their group, they shall disclaim any school endorsement.

Assembly by high school students for purposes of engaging in religious, political, philosophical or other speech is also permitted by "The Equal Access Act," a 1984 federal law which provides:

1. The meeting is voluntary and student-initiated;
2. There is no sponsorship of the meeting by the school, the government, or their agents or employees;
3. Employees or agents of the school or government are present at 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;
5. Nonschool persons may not direct, conduct, control or regularly attend activities of student groups;
6. The assembly is not held during school hours; and
7. The time and place of meeting shall not interfere with the school program and shall have been approved by school officials.

The school, its employees and agents may not:

1. Influence the form or content of any religious, political or philosophical discussion or activity;
2. Promote or discourage such activities or participation in them by any student;
3. Require any person to participate in the activity;
4. Expend public funds beyond the incidental cost of providing the space for student-initiated meetings;
5. Compel any agent or employee to attend such a meeting if the content of the speech at the meeting is contrary to the beliefs of the agent or employee;
6. Permit meetings that are otherwise unlawful; or
7. Limit the rights of groups of students which are under a specified numerical size.

END OF POLICY

Legal Reference(s):

[ORS 339.880](#)

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[OAR 581-021-0050](#)

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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