

Student Organizations

District staff are responsible for all activities, programs and services supported by or conducted in the district. To enhance staff success in meeting their responsibilities, requests for the use of school facilities must be planned and approved by the building administration in advance. Further, such use must not interfere with normal school routines and schedules or create a hazard for people or property. Schools may prohibit meetings which could materially and substantially interfere with the orderly conduct of educational activities, programs and services or the school's normal routines and schedules.

Subsequently, the following rules will apply to student organizations and meetings:

1. Students may gather informally during the regular student school day provided they do not disrupt the orderly operation of the educational process or infringe upon the rights of others to pursue their activities;
2. Generally, students may be permitted to hold meetings on school property before or after the regular student school day if:
 - a. The requested space is available;
 - b. The meeting is scheduled in advance with and receives approval from the building administration;
 - c. Normal school or class routines are not interrupted;
 - d. The meeting does not incite a hazard to person or property; and/or
 - e. The meeting is sponsored by school officials or official school clubs or organizations.
3. In no case, will permission to meet on district premises or use district facilities be granted to any person, group or organization that either encourages, advocates or supports the violation of federal, state or local laws including district and school policies, regulations and rules;
4. If a crowd is anticipated (i.e., more than the size of the classroom requested allows), a crowd control plan shall be filed and approved by the building administration five days in advance of the meeting;
5. School-sponsored or curriculum-related clubs or organizations shall be given priority over voluntary student-initiated clubs or organizations;
6. Resource persons may not be present unless the provisions of Board policy are met (See policy INB - Controversial Issues/Speakers);
7. Organizations and meetings must not present a threat to the safety of staff, students or property;

8. Curriculum-related student organizations must meet one of the following criteria:
 - a. The group’s subject matter is actually taught or will soon be taught in a regularly offered course;
 - b. The group’s subject matter concerns the body of courses as a whole; or
 - c. Participation in the group is required for a particular course or results in academic credit.

9. Voluntary student-initiated clubs must meet all of the following criteria:
 - a. Be voluntary and student-initiated;
 - b. Not be sponsored by the school or any school agent or employee;
 - c. Not materially and substantially interfere with the orderly conduct of educational activities, programs or services within the school;
 - d. Not be directed, controlled, conducted or regularly attended by “nonschool” persons; and
 - e. Not place the school district or any district employee or representative in violation of any federal, state or local law including district and school policies and rules.

10. Petitions

Students may petition for a change in school policies and procedures. Circulation of such petitions must be reviewed by a building administrator prior to circulation and must be submitted to the superintendent upon completion. The superintendent will forward petitions to appropriate authorities.

Definitions

1. “Noninstructional time” means time set aside by the school before actual classroom instruction begins or after actual classroom instruction ends.

2. “Sponsorship” means the act of promoting, leading or participating in a meeting. The assignment of district staff to a meeting for custodial purposes does not constitute sponsorship of the meeting. Staff cannot, however, be compelled to attend a meeting if the content of the speech at the meeting is contrary to that person’s belief.

3. “Limited open forum” means schools may not deny equal access of fair opportunity to or discriminate against student initiated clubs on the basis of religious, political, philosophical or other content of the speech at such meetings as long as district policy and rules are followed, met and maintained. If the meetings are religious, the school may not influence or support the form of any religious activity.