

STUDENT PERSONNEL

Series 500

POLICY TITLE STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS

No. 504.2

Students may form and maintain organized school based groups in grades 6-12. However, no student group shall exist unless it is approved by the Board of Education. The district will only consider approving a group organized for a purpose not prohibited by law. Prior to consideration by the Board, the proposed organization must submit to the associate superintendent the New Club/Organization Request Form. The associate superintendent shall present a recommendation to the Board regarding approval or non-approval of the organization. If the Board approves the registration of a student group, this does not imply district endorsement of its purposes or activities. Failure to comply with the regulations of the district may result in disbanding the organization by action of the Board of Education.

Each building principal shall maintain an annual list of all district approved student organizations, organization officers and staff advisors and place on the school's website.

Student initiated groups which are not district nor school approved shall not use the school or district name, mascot or other sign or symbol that might imply school district sponsorship. Other secondary school student initiated, non-curriculum related groups and student curriculum related groups, upon receiving permission from the principal, may use school facilities for group meetings during non-instructional time.

Non-instructional time will mean any time before the first period of the day and after the last period of the day in which any student attends class. Meetings will not interfere with the orderly conduct of the education program or other school district operations. It is within the discretion of the principal to determine whether the meetings will interfere with the orderly conduct of the education program or other school district operations. Activities relating to and part of the education program will have priority over the activities of another organization.

Curriculum-Related Organizations

It will also be the responsibility of the principal to determine whether a student group is curriculum related. One or more of the following questions will be answered affirmatively if the group is curriculum related:

- Is the subject matter of the group actually taught in a regularly offered course?
- Will the subject matter of the group soon be taught in a regularly offered course?
- Does the subject matter of the group concern the body of courses as a whole?
- Is participation in the group required for a particular course?
- Does participation in the group result in academic credit?

Secondary school curriculum related student organizations may use the school district facilities for meetings and other purposes before and after the instructional school day. Employees are assigned to supervise approved meetings and may interact with curriculum related organizations.

Non-curriculum Related Organizations

Student initiated, non-curriculum related organizations are provided access to meeting space and school district facilities.

Only students may attend and participate in meetings of non-curriculum related groups. Such attendance is strictly voluntary and student initiated. As a means of determining whether a student's attendance is voluntary, the principal may require guardian consent for the student to attend the meetings.

It is required that a school employee be present to supervise approved meetings. Employees will generally not participate in meetings or be involved in encouraging attendance or recruiting members. Students may invite other individuals or employees to meetings as occasional guest visitors or speakers, as approved by the employee's supervisor.

It is the responsibility of the associate superintendent, in conjunction with the principal, to develop administrative regulations regarding this policy.

Legal Reference: Westside Comm. Bd. Of Ed. V. Mergens, 496 U.S. 226 (1990)
Bender v. Williamsport Area comm.. Sch. Dist., 741 F.2d 538 (3d Cir. 1984)
vacated and remanded on other grounds, 475.S534 (1986)
20 U.S.C. 4071-4074
Iowa Code 287.1, 297.9

Cross Reference: 502 Student Rights and Responsibilities
504 Student Activities

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