

NON-CURRICULUM RELATED STUDENT GROUPS

The Board believes that approved non-curriculum related student groups are an important part of the total educational program and can be useful in developing good human relations as well as knowledge and skills. Such groups may meet on school premises during non-instructional time subject to reasonable regulation by the Superintendent or building-level administrators as to the precise time and place. In approving or not approving non-curriculum related student groups, the Superintendent shall adhere to the following guidelines:

1. Consistent with the federal Equal Access Act, a group shall not be disapproved, denied access to school premise, or otherwise discriminated against on the basis of the religious, political, philosophical, or other content of speech at the group's meetings.
2. Student participation in all such groups must be voluntary.
3. A group's meetings shall not materially and substantially interfere with the orderly conduct of educational activities within the school;
4. Where a group's activities may fairly be viewed as implicating the freedom of speech and/or freedom of religion clauses of the First Amendment of the U. S. Constitution and/or of Article I, Section 7 and/or 11 of the Ohio Constitution, the following requirements shall also be observed.
 - A. All meetings must be student-initiated;
 - B. No meeting shall be sponsored by the District or its agents or employees;
 - C. Non-school persons may not direct, conduct, control, or regularly attend activities of the group;
 - D. Employees or agents of the District may be present at a religious meeting only in a non-participatory capacity;
 - E. No public funds shall be expended beyond the incidental cost of providing the space for student-initiated meetings.

This policy is not intended to apply to any curriculum-related groups or extra-curricular activities, with respect to which the Board reserves all managerial and regulatory authority available to it under applicable law. This policy is intended to comply with the federal Equal Access Act; in the event of any conflict between a term of this policy and a term of the Act, the Act shall control. This policy shall not be construed as foreclosing the Board from electing in the future to close its "limited open forum," as that term is defined in the Act.

Adopted 1/10/96
Reviewed 5/9/05
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