

## **Student Organizations (Secondary Schools)**

### **Policy Statement**

It is the policy of the District to permit the organization and operation of student organizations in the secondary schools and to permit such organizations to meet on school premises during non-instructional time. The purpose of this policy is to establish criteria and procedures governing the operation of student organizations.

### **School Sponsored Organizations**

School sponsored student organizations serve as an extension of the regular school curriculum. Their function is to enhance the participants' educational experience and supplement the course materials within the educational program of the schools. The activities of these organizations should bear a clear relationship to the regular curriculum. Student organizations meeting these criteria and approved by the principal will be deemed to be officially recognized, school sponsored student organizations.

### **Non-School Sponsored Organizations**

Secondary school students are also permitted to organize and conduct meetings of non-curriculum related and non-school sponsored student organizations to pursue activities, subject to the provisions of this policy. Such organizations must be student initiated and directed, and school personnel, parents and any other persons who are not students enrolled in the District are prohibited from directing, controlling, conducting or regularly attending the meetings of such organizations. The fact that such organizations are permitted to conduct meetings under this policy shall not constitute an expression of District support for the purposes of such organizations or the content of any meetings thereof.

### **Membership**

Membership in all student organizations shall be available on a voluntary basis and limited to all students currently enrolled in the sponsoring school. Student organizations may establish academic qualifications for membership where necessarily related to the purposes of the organization. No student shall be denied membership on account of his or her protected status. Qualifications based on sex may be imposed only where necessary to preserve bona fide and integral qualification for the activities of the organization.

### **Faculty Supervision**

School sponsored student organizations shall be supervised by one or more of the members of the school faculty, approved by the principal. Faculty sponsors shall participate in the supervision and direction of all activities of the organization and shall attend all meetings.

Non-school sponsored student organizations shall not have a faculty sponsor. However, the meeting(s) may be supervised by the school staff to the extent necessary to assure building security.

No school employee shall be compelled to attend a meeting of any student organization if the content of such meeting is contrary to the beliefs of that school employee. School employees present at any meeting of a non-school sponsored student organization which includes religious worship, prayer or practice or is identified as having a religious purpose shall attend in a non-participatory capacity only.

**Meeting of Student Organizations**

All student organizations shall have the right to meet on school premises during non-instructional time as designated by the school principal. No student organization shall be denied equal access to school facilities during designated meeting times on the basis of the religious, political, philosophical or other content of the speech at the meetings of such organization. No public funding or support shall be extended to any non-school sponsored student organization other than the opportunity to meet on school premises on an equal basis as other student organizations.

The principal of each school shall develop guidelines and rules concerning the procedure for scheduling meetings of student organizations and setting the times and facilities which are available for such meetings. Meeting times shall be limited to non-instructional time before or after regular classroom hours or during established activities periods. These guidelines and rules shall be made available to all students. Student organizations wishing to conduct meetings under this policy must make application to the principal for permission in accordance with district procedures.

**Compliance with Law and Policy**

Student organizations shall not engage in any activity which is contrary to law, district policy, or school rules; which disrupts or clearly threatens to disrupt the orderly operation of the school; or which would adversely affect the health, safety or welfare of any students or staff members. Student organizations shall comply with the purchasing policy of the District and may not extend the credit of the District. Failure to comply with these provisions shall be grounds for revocation of the right to continue to conduct meetings under this policy.