

# STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS (Secondary Schools)

*Policy Number: Board File: JJA*

Student organizations in the District's secondary schools may be curriculum-related or noncurriculum-related. This policy shall govern the creation and operation of all such student organizations.

Any organization established by secondary school students shall not engage in any activity which is contrary to law, District policy or school rules; which disrupts or threatens to disrupt the orderly operation of the school; or which would adversely affect the health, safety or welfare of any student or District employee. Failure to comply with these provisions shall be grounds for revocation of the right to continue meeting under this policy, and may result in student discipline, including suspension and/or expulsion.

## Curriculum-Related Student Organizations

Curriculum-related student organizations enhance the participating students' educational experience and supplement course work within the educational program of the schools. Curriculum-related student organizations are those that directly relate to the school's curriculum by meeting any one of the following four criteria: (1) the subject matter of the organization is actually taught or will soon be taught in a regularly offered course; (2) the subject matter of the organization concerns the body of courses as a whole; (3) participation in the organization is required for a particular course; or (4) participation in the organization results in academic credit.

Curriculum-related student organizations may be organized by members of the school faculty on their own initiative or at the suggestion of one or more secondary students, upon prior approval of the school principal. All curriculum-related student organizations shall be sponsored and supervised by one or more members of the school faculty authorized by the principal.

## Noncurriculum-Related Student Organizations

### 1. School Sponsored Noncurriculum-Related Student Organizations.

Secondary schools within the District may sponsor student organizations that do not meet any of the four criteria specified above and are thus not directly related to the school's curriculum. Such organizations must be approved in advance by the school principal and shall be monitored by one or more members of the school faculty authorized by the principal. Such organizations may conduct meetings and activities on school premises, but only during non instructional time. "Non instructional time" means time designated by the principal when actual classroom instruction is not taking place.

### 2. Student Initiated and Led Noncurriculum-Related Student Organizations.

Secondary school students shall be permitted to establish noncurriculum-related student organizations, subject to the provisions of the Federal Equal Access Act and the terms of this policy. Such organizations may conduct meetings and activities on school premises during non instructional time only, upon prior application for permission to and approval of the principal. "Non instructional time" means time designated by the principal when actual classroom instruction is not taking place. The principal of each secondary school shall develop rules concerning the scheduling of times and facilities which are available for such meetings and activities.

- a. Neither the District nor any secondary school shall deny equal access to school facilities for meetings and related activities, or otherwise discriminate against such organizations or their student members, on the basis of the religious, political, philosophical or other content of the speech of noncurriculum-related organizations established by secondary school students.
- b. The meetings of noncurriculum-related organizations established by secondary school students must be voluntary and student initiated; must not materially and substantially interfere with the orderly conduct of educational activities within the school; and must not be directed, conducted, controlled or regularly attended by non-school persons. A member of the school faculty shall serve as a monitor for purposes of general supervision at such meetings. No school employee shall be compelled to attend such meetings if the meetings' content is contrary to the employee's belief. School employees present at such meetings shall attend in a non-participatory capacity only.
- c. Noncurriculum-related organizations established by secondary school students shall not be deemed to be school-sponsored or endorsed. The fact that such organizations are permitted to conduct meetings on school premises and to access school facilities for related activities under this policy shall not constitute an expression of District or school support for the purposes of such organizations or the views expressed at any meetings thereof.

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**LEGAL REFS.:**

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