

Student Organizations (Secondary Schools)

Curriculum-Related Student Organizations (Definition)

Student organizations shall be considered directly related to the curriculum if one or more of the following applies:

1. The subject matter of the group actually is taught in a regularly-offered course.
2. The subject matter of the group concerns the body of courses as a whole.
3. Participation in the group is required for a particular course.
4. Academic credit or extra credit is given for participation in the group.

Recognition of Student Organizations

Curriculum-related 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 direct relationship to the regular curriculum.

Student organizations meeting the criteria of this policy and approved by the principal will be deemed to be officially recognized, school-sponsored student organizations. Any organization which fails to meet the criteria of this policy will be denied recognition as, and the privileges of, a student organization. Recognition of any student organization shall be in accordance with district procedures.

Membership

Membership in student organizations shall be open only to all students currently enrolled in the sponsoring school on a voluntary basis. 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/her race, color, national origin, disability, marital status or religion. Qualifications based on sex may be imposed only where necessary to preserve the health, safety or welfare of students, or where sex is a bona fide and integral qualification for the activities of the organization.

Faculty Sponsorship

Every student organization shall be sponsored by one or more of the members of the school faculty, and approved by the principal. Faculty sponsors shall be responsible for the supervision and direction of all activities of the organization, shall actively participate in planning and implementing the activities and shall attend all meetings.

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 recognition.

Application

Any group seeking recognition as a student organization shall submit a written application through its faculty sponsor to the principal. Applications shall be made on district-approved forms only and shall include at least the following information:

1. Name of the organization.
2. Name(s) of the faculty sponsor(s).
3. A general statement of the purpose of the organization.
4. A description of the qualifications for membership, if any. If students' sex is a qualification, the description shall state the reason therefor.
5. A statement of the relation of the organization to the regular school curriculum. This shall include specific references to classes or other elements of the educational program which the organization is intended to supplement, and a description of how the organization will serve as an extension or adjunct to the curriculum.
6. A description of the function of the faculty advisor in the promotion, supervision and leadership of the organization.

The principal shall review the application and such other information as he or she considers appropriate and shall approve or disapprove the recognition of the organization

within 10 school days after receipt of the application. The principal's decision shall be in writing and a copy shall be given to the faculty sponsor. If the application is disapproved, the principal shall state the reason(s) for disapproval in the decision.

Right of Appeal

The faculty sponsor may appeal the principal's decision to the superintendent of schools, or the superintendent's designee, by written appeal submitted within 5 school days after receipt of the principal's decision. The superintendent, or his or her designee, shall review the appeal and such other information as he or she considers appropriate and render a written decision within 10 school days after receipt of the appeal.

The faculty sponsor may appeal the decision of the superintendent, or his or her designee, to the Board of Education by written appeal submitted to the Secretary of the Board within 5 school days after receipt of such decision. The written appeal shall state the reasons for the appeal and shall enclose a copy of the application, the appeal to the superintendent or designee and all prior decisions. The Board shall review the appeal and such other information as it considers appropriate and shall notify the faculty sponsor of the date and time at which it will meet to render a decision. At the meeting, the Board shall enter its order affirming or reversing the decision of the superintendent. The decision of the Board shall be final.

Revocation of Recognition

The principal may revoke recognition of any student organization at any time upon his or her own initiative or on complaint by any student or staff member for good cause. Revocation may be appealed to the superintendent, or his or her designee, and the Board as provided hereinabove.

Approved: January 6, 1986
Revised: January 21, 1992
Revised: May 2000