

**SUBJECT: STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS**

The Board of Education recognizes the educational values inherent in student participation in the extracurricular life of the school, and supports the concept of the formation of student groups for such purposes as building sound social relationships, developing interests in an academic area, and gaining an understanding of the elements and responsibilities of good citizenship.

The Superintendent of Schools, with the aid of students, faculty and administration, is charged with developing procedures for registering and regulating student groups or clubs. Such procedures shall ensure that the District will register any group organized for a purpose not prohibited by Board policy or by law, if such group submits a list of its members designated as contacts, a copy of its constitution and/or bylaws, and the constitution and bylaws of any off-campus organization with which it may be affiliated. Student groups may not restrict membership on the basis of race, sex, national origin or other arbitrary criteria.

The Board prohibits the formation of any clubs, including fraternities or sororities, or any other secret society, whose deliberations and activities have caused or created, or are likely to cause or create, a disruption of or interference with the school program. Such groups are generally defined as those which draft new members from District students on the decision of the membership rather than upon the free choice of any student in the school. The Superintendent is empowered to discipline any student who promises to join, becomes a member, remains a member, or solicits membership in such a group after such group has been abolished or prohibited by the Board.

Administrative regulations governing the use of school facilities shall abide by the Equal Access Act in the creation of a "limited open forum." All non-curriculum related student activities, regardless of religious or political content, shall have the same opportunities as any other such activity to operate on school grounds.

**Establishing Extraclassroom/Student Activity Organizations**

Extraclassroom/student activities shall be conducted for educational purposes. Students or staff desiring to form an extraclassroom activity shall petition the Building Principal in writing, specifically stating the purpose, activities and potential membership of the organization.

- a) If, in the opinion of the Building Principal, the proposed extraclassroom activity is for an educational purpose, there is sufficient student interest, and a suitable Faculty Advisor is available, the Principal shall recommend the establishment of the proposed organization to the Superintendent.
- b) All extraclassroom activity organizations require the recommendation of the Superintendent and the approval of the Board of Education.
- c) The Superintendent or his/her designee shall maintain a list of all approved extraclassroom activity organizations.

(Continued)

## Students

**SUBJECT: STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS (Cont'd.)**

- d) As required by the Regulations of the New York State Commissioner of Education, each extraclassroom activity organization shall have a Faculty Advisor recommended by the Superintendent and approved by the Board of Education.
- e) On an annual basis, each extraclassroom activity is required to complete an application for Club Charter and submit a copy to the Superintendent and the Assistant Superintendent for Business.
- f) If, in the opinion of the Building Principal, an existing extraclassroom activity should be dissolved, the Building Principal shall make a written recommendation to dissolve the extraclassroom activity to the Superintendent. Any funds remaining will be given to the Student Organization.
- g) Fraternities, sororities, secret societies and other self-perpetuating, exclusive organizations are contrary to and inconsistent with the principles of good education. Therefore, the activities of such non-school sponsored organizations should not take place in the buildings, grounds, facilities or properties of the School District.

Equal Access Act, 20 USC Sections 4071-4074  
Education Law Sections 207, 1709-a, 2503-a, 2554-a  
8 NYCRR Part 172

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