

## STUDENT PERSONNEL

### Series 500

#### POLICY TITLE STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS

No. 504.2

Students may form and maintain organized school based groups. However, no student group shall exist unless it is approved by the Board of Education. The district will only consider approving a group organized for a purpose not prohibited by law. Prior to consideration by the Board, the proposed organization must submit to the associate superintendent a list of members as designated contacts, staff, its constitution and bylaws and the constitution and bylaws of any off-campus organization with which it is affiliated. If an organization does not have a constitution, it must submit a written statement of purposes to the administration for consideration. The associate superintendent shall present a recommendation to the Board regarding approval or non-approval of the organization. If the Board approves the registration of a student group, this does not imply district endorsement of its purposes or activities. Failure to comply with the regulations of the district may result in disbanding the organization by action of the Board of Education.

Each building principal shall maintain an annual list of all district approved student organizations, organization officers and staff advisors and place on the school's website.

Student initiated groups which are not district nor school approved shall not use the school or district name, mascot or other sign or symbol that might imply school district sponsorship. Other secondary school student initiated, non-curriculum related groups and student curriculum related groups, upon receiving permission from the principal, may use school facilities for group meetings during non-instructional time.

Non-instructional time will mean any time before the first period of the day and after the last period of the day in which any student attends class. Meetings will not interfere with the orderly conduct of the education program or other school district operations. It is within the discretion of the principal to determine whether the meetings will interfere with the orderly conduct of the education program or other school district operations. Activities relating to and part of the education program will have priority over the activities of another organization.

#### Curriculum-Related Organizations

It will also be the responsibility of the principal to determine whether a student group is curriculum related. One or more of the following questions will be answered affirmatively if the group is curriculum related:

- Is the subject matter of the group actually taught in a regularly offered course?
- Will the subject matter of the group soon be taught in a regularly offered course?
- Does the subject matter of the group concern the body of courses as a whole?
- Is participation in the group required for a particular course?
- Does participation in the group result in academic credit?

Secondary school curriculum related student organizations may use the school district facilities for

meetings and other purposes before and after the instructional school day. Sponsors are assigned to monitor approved meetings and may interact with curriculum related organizations.

#### Non-curriculum Related Organizations

Student initiated, non-curriculum related organizations are provided access to meeting space and school district facilities.

Only students may attend and participate in meetings of non-curriculum related groups. Such attendance is strictly voluntary and student initiated. As a means of determining whether a student's attendance is voluntary, the principal may require parental consent for the student to attend the meetings.

Sponsors or suitable replacement will be required to monitor approved meetings. Sponsors will not participate in the meeting or assist in planning, criticizing, or encouraging attendance. Only students may be involved in and attend the non-curriculum group's meetings.

It is the responsibility of the associate superintendent, in conjunction with the principal, to develop administrative regulations regarding this policy.

Legal Reference: Westside Comm. Bd. Of Ed. V. Mergens, 496 U.S. 226 (1990)  
Bender v. Williamsport Area comm.. Sch. Dist., 741 F.2d 538 (3d Cir. 1984)  
vacated and remanded on other grounds, 475.S534 (1986)  
20 U.S.C. 4071-4074 (1988)  
Iowa Code 287.1, 297.9 (1993)

Cross Reference: 502 Student Rights and Responsibilities  
504 Student Activities

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