

BookLPS Policies SectionSection J: Students TitleStudent Organizations NumberJJA StatusActive Legal

C.R.S. 22-1-117

C.R.S. 22-1-118

20 U.S.C. §4071 et seq.

C.R.S. 18-9-124(2)(a)

AdoptedJuly 2, 1984 Last RevisedApril 9, 1998

Student Organizations

The Board permits student organizations to function in the secondary schools and to meet on school premises during noninstructional time.

Compliance With Law and Board Policy

Student organizations shall operate within the framework of federal and state law, Board policy and regulation. Student organizations shall not engage in any activity that disrupts or clearly threatens to disrupt the orderly operation of the school or that adversely affects the health, safety, or welfare of any students or staff. All forms of hazing in student organization initiations shall be prohibited. Initiations for student organizations shall not bring criticism to the District or be degrading to the student. Failure to comply with any law, policy, or regulation shall be grounds for revocation of the right to continue to function under this policy.

Membership

All student organizations are required to open membership to all interested and/or eligible students. No student shall be denied membership on account of his/her race, color, national origin, disability, or religion. Student organizations may establish academic qualifications for membership when related to the purposes of the organization. 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, integral qualification for the activities of the organization.

Prohibited Groups

Fraternities, sororities, disruptive groups, gangs, and/or secret societies shall not receive recognition in any manner under this policy.

Student Forums

Student forums as a means of expression of opinion shall be permitted at the request of the student government at reasonable times and places provided by the administration so as not to interfere with school operations.

Staff Supervision

A District employee sponsor or monitor shall attend every meeting or activity of the student organization conducted on school premises.

Types of Student Organizations

Two types of student organizations may exist in any secondary school.

School-sponsored Clubs

School-sponsored clubs and activities are those related to the District's and/or the school's educational mission(s), and include both curriculum-related clubs (such as drama, publications, and student council), and noncurriculum-related clubs and activities (such as National Honor Society, sports, and service organizations). A curriculum-related club is one in which:

The subject matter of the organization is actually taught, or will soon be taught, in a regularly offered course; or

The subject matter of the organization concerns the body of courses as a whole; or

Participation in the organization is required for a particular course; or

Participation in the group results in academic credit.

A noncurriculum-related club is one that does not meet any of the criteria above, but does have a direct relation to and no conflict with the District's and/or the school's educational mission(s).

Student-initiated/Student Interest Groups

Student-initiated or "student interest" groups are those not sponsored or endorsed by the District (such as bible club). Such groups must be student-initiated and directed. No public funding or support shall be extended to any student interest group other than the opportunity to meet on school premises on an equal basis as other student organizations. The fact that such groups are permitted to function under this policy shall not constitute an expression of District support for the purposes of such group or the content of any of the meetings or activities.

Application to Operate as a Student Interest Group

Students wishing to function as an approved student interest group shall apply to the principal for permission. Approval or disapproval may not be based on any minimum number of students. If approval is denied, the principal shall inform the students of the reasons for the denial. The students may submit a written request to the appropriate District administrator for review of the principal's decision in accordance with Board policy.

Right to Meet on School Premises

Approved student organizations shall have the right to meet on school premises during noninstructional time as designated by the building principal. Noninstructional time shall be limited to activity periods or other time before or after regular classroom hours set aside for this purpose. No student organization shall be denied 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, except as otherwise provided in this policy.

The building principal shall establish procedures in accordance with this policy and its regulations for the use of school premises, including scheduling meetings or activities of student organizations, access to means of publicity, involvement of adults in meetings or activities, and any other issues related to such use. The principal may include in such procedures the requirement that use of school means of publicity (e.g., publications, bulletin boards, PA system) will include a disclaimer of school endorsement or sponsorship of the group. The principal or designee shall administer such procedures, and may withdraw or deny use of school premises if laws, policies, regulations, and/or procedures have been violated.

The building principal retains the authority to prohibit meetings/activities that would otherwise be unlawful. Nothing in this policy or its regulations or administrative procedures shall be construed to limit the authority of the principal to maintain discipline on school premises, to protect the well-being of students and staff, and to ensure that attendance at meetings is voluntary.

Review and/or Revocation of Approved Status

At any time, the Board and/or the administration of the District may review the status of an approved student organization and may revoke approval to function as such for good cause. Grounds for revocation may include, but are not limited to the following reasons:

Lack of participation

Lack of sponsor or monitor

District costs to operate organization

Reduction in school budget

Violation of law, policy, regulation, and/or procedure by organization members

Interference or conflict with regular operation of the school

Cross Reference:

IB, Academic Freedom

JICF, Gang Activity/Secret Societies

JICDA, Student Code of Conduct

KCB, Review of Decisions at Request of Community Members