

## **Instruction**

### **Student Organizations and Equal Access**

#### School Sponsorship

School-sponsored student organizations must be organized at the school, have a certificated advisor, be composed completely of current student body members and be approved by the Superintendent or designee in accordance with Governing Board policy. They shall hold the majority of their meetings at school and have a democratic plan for the selection of officers. Organization activities shall not conflict with the authority and responsibilities of school officials.

The Principal or designee shall establish school rules governing the meetings of curriculum-related groups. Such rules may vary depending on the circumstances that apply, such as whether or not citizenship credit is given for participation in the group.

#### Closed Forum

In order to maintain a closed forum at district schools, each Principal or designee shall ensure that all school-sponsored student organizations are curriculum-related. In order to qualify as "curriculum-related," all student groups must relate to the curriculum by falling under one or more of the following categories:

1. The subject matter of the group is currently taught or will soon be taught in a regularly scheduled course.
2. The subject matter of the group concerns the body of courses as a whole (e.g., student government).
3. Participation in the group is required for a particular course.
4. Participation in the group results in academic credit.

Groups not sponsored by the school may use school facilities only as allowed under the Civic Center Act.

(cf. 1330 - Use of School Facilities)

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### **Student Organizations and Equal Access (continued)**

The Superintendent or designee may deny the use of facilities to any groups that he/she believes will disrupt the school program or threaten the health and safety of students and staff. (20 USC 4071)

Meetings held within the limited open forum shall entail no expenditure of public funds beyond the incidental cost of providing the meeting space. (20 USC 4071(d))

#### Authorization for Student Groups

Any student wishing to create a curriculum-related student group shall first request authorization from the principal or designee. The group shall provide the principal or designee with the following information:

1. Name of the organization and names of student contacts
2. A statement of the organization's purposes, objectives, and activities
3. A copy of the proposed bylaws of the student group, including a description of how officers will be selected
4. The name of the proposed staff advisor
5. The proposed dates, times, and location of meetings
6. Any special equipment to be used
7. A description of the qualifications for membership, if any
8. A statement of the relation of the club to the curriculum and/or instructional program

The Principal or designee may establish school rules governing the meetings of curriculum-related groups, such as attendance or grade requirements. Such rules may vary depending on the group, such as whether or not academic credit is given for participation in the group.

#### Role of Staff Adviser

For any curriculum-related student group, the staff adviser shall provide guidance and teaching to students to ensure that the group's activities are aligned to the District's goals and objectives and shall provide supervision and leadership of the group. The Principal shall have final authority in determining the assignment and role of the staff adviser.

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A school employee may refuse to attend a meeting of a student group if the content of the speech at the meeting is contrary to the employee's beliefs. (20 USC 4071)

### **Hazing**

Any student who engages in hazing may be subject to discipline including, but not limited to, suspension or expulsion. Hazing means a method of initiation or pre-initiation into a student organization or body, whether or not the organization or body is officially recognized by the District, which is likely to cause serious bodily injury or personal degradation or disgrace resulting in physical or mental harm to a former, current, or prospective student. (Education Code 48900)

(cf. 5131 - Conduct)

(cf. 5144.1 - Suspension and Expulsion/Due Process)

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