Policy Number	122.1
Title	Noncurriculum-Related, Nonschool-Sponsored, Student-Initiated Groups
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Noncurriculum-Related, Nonschool-Sponsored, Student-Initiated Groups

NOTE: It is important to distinguish that Policy 122.1 only applies to noncurriculum-related, nonschool-sponsored, student-intiated groups seeking permission to use district premises to meet. In this policy, it is the granting of the opportunity to meet that is approved; not the group itself.

- ***Extracurricular activities that are sponsored or approved by the Board are governed by Policy 122. Extracurricular Activities.***
- ***Nonschool organizations, groups and individuals initiating a request for use of school facilities or dissemination of materials are governed by policies 707. Use of School Facilities and 913. Nonschool Organizations/Groups/Individuals.***

Purpose

The district, by making a limited open forum available, provides the opportunity for noncurriculum-related, nonschool-sponsored, student-initiated groups of secondary students to meet, without discrimination, on school district premises during noninstructional time for the purpose of conducting a meeting regardless of the religious, political, philosophical or other content of the speech at such meetings. [1][1] [2]

Definitions

Noninstructional time - the time set aside by the school before actual classroom instruction begins, after actual classroom instruction ends or during time designated for lunch.

Limited open forum - a public secondary school has a limited open forum whenever such school grants an offering to or opportunity for one or more noncurriculum-related student groups to meet on school premises during noninstructional time.[1]

Noncurriculum-related student group - any student-initiated group that does not directly relate to the body of courses offered by the district. [3]

Sponsorship - the act of promoting, leading or participating in a meeting. The assignment of a teacher, administrator or other school employee to a meeting for custodial purposes does not constitute sponsorship of the meeting.[4]

Authority

Meetings of noncurriculum student groups (student groups) must be voluntary, student-initiated and conducted in accordance with applicable state and federal laws, regulations, Board policies and school rules.[1] [1] [2] [5]

Such meetings must not be under the sponsorship of the school district, its agents or employees.[1]

The meetings of student groups cannot materially and substantially interfere with the orderly conduct of the educational activities in the school.[1]

Availability and assignment of facilities, supplies and equipment necessary, including access to district-controlled methods of communication such as bulletin boards, a public-address system, and advertisements in the school newspaper, to conduct such meetings shall be provided in accordance with the Equal Access Act.[1]

Delegation of Responsibility

The Superintendent or designee may establish standard procedures regarding the length of meetings, permissible number of meetings per week and other limitations deemed reasonably necessary.

The Superintendent or designee will designate areas within district buildings and outside areas authorized for meetings of student groups. Access to areas which have not been designated as meeting spaces by the Superintendent or designee is prohibited.

A district employee will be assigned to attend and monitor each student group meeting. Monitors will attend the meetings in a nonparticipatory capacity for the purpose of maintaining order. The assignment of a monitor does not constitute sponsorship of the student group or meeting.[1]

District employees will not be required to attend any meeting where the content of the speech is contrary to their beliefs.[1]

District administrators and staff retain the authority to:[1]

1. **Maintain order and discipline on district premises.**
2. **Protect the well-being of students and employees.**
3. **Assure the attendance of students at such meetings is voluntary.**

Guidelines

Students seeking permission to form a student group to meet during noninstructional time must submit a written request by September 15th each year to the building principal on the designated district form.

All activities of the student group must be led by the student members of the group. The meetings and activities may not be directed, conducted, controlled or regularly attended by individuals from outside the school.[1]

Guests may be invited but may not be regular participants in the student meetings. All guests must comply with Board policy regarding school visitors. [6]

Materials prepared for dissemination on district premises must comply with the provisions of Board policy relating to the dissemination of materials. [7]

Public funds may not be used for the operation of the meetings beyond the incidental cost of providing the space for the group to meet.

The student group may not be advertised as a school-sponsored activity. All announcements and disseminated materials must include a disclaimer of school sponsorship or endorsement.

Students in violation of this policy and applicable rules may result in loss of the right to meet on school premises and/or disciplinary action. [5]

Footnotes

[1] Pol. 103
Policy Reference
Open policy

[2] Pol. 103.1
Policy Reference
Open policy

[3] Board of Education of Westside Community Schools v. Mergens, 496 U.S. 226 (1990)

[4] 20 U.S.C. 4072
uscode.house.gov
uscode.house.gov
Legal Reference
View source

[5] Pol. 218
Policy Reference
Open policy

[6] Pol. 907
Policy Reference
Open policy

[7] Pol. 220
Policy Reference
Open policy

[8] Pol. 907

[9] Pol. 220

Legal References

[1] Pol. 103
[2] Pol. 103.1
[3] Board of Education of Westside Community Schools v. Mergens, 496 U.S. 226 (1990)
[4] 20 U.S.C. 4072
[5] Pol. 218
[6] Pol. 907
[7] Pol. 220
[8] Pol. 907
[9] Pol. 220