

SECONDARY SCHOOL STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS
(Limited Open Forum)

Secondary school student-initiated, noncurriculum-related groups must request the use of school facilities on the appropriate form. Approval or denial will be made by the principal or his/her designee in compliance with the use of facilities Board policy.

Approved groups may meet only during non instructional times. Attendance is limited to students, and participation shall be strictly voluntary and student-initiated. Meetings shall not interfere with the orderly conduct of educational activity. Non instructional time shall mean any time before the first period in the day when the students attend class or after the last period in the day that students attend class.

Student-initiated, noncurriculum-related groups will not use the school name, school mascot name, district name, or any name that might imply school or district sponsorship. The use of school equipment will be subject to Board policy.

Either certificated or classified employees will be assigned to monitor authorized meetings. An employee may be assigned to monitor more than one such meeting held concurrently if the principal determines that adequate order and discipline can be maintained to ensure that attendance of students at the meetings is voluntary. Employees shall not participate in any way in the meeting or assist in planning, criticizing, or encouraging attendance. Nonschool persons cannot direct, conduct, control, or regularly attend activities of student groups.

In determining whether a group is curriculum related, the school principal or his/her designee should be able to answer these two questions affirmatively:

1. Does the school usually sponsor an activity dealing with this subject matter?
2. Does the school require or directly encourage student participation in such a group in connection with curriculum course work?

As a means of determining whether a student's attendance at an approved meeting is voluntary, a school principal or his/her designee may require parent/guardian consent for attendance at meetings of noncurriculum-related groups.

Legal Reference: Westside Community Board of Education v Mergens, 496 U.S. 266 (1990).
Bender v. Williamsport Area Community School District, 741 F.2d 538 (3d Cir. 1984), *vacated and remanded on other grounds*, 475 U.S. 534 (1986).
20 U.S.C. § 4071-4074 (2006).
Iowa Code §§ 287.1-.3; 297.7 (2009).

Cross Reference: 905.1E1 Use of Facilities, Building Rental & Usage Contract
905.1E2 Use of Facilities, Indemnity & Liability Insurance Agreement
905.1R3 Loan of School Equipment

Adopted: 05/23/1988

Reviewed: 06/09/1997; 03/12/2001; 03/29/2004; 03/12/2007; 03/21/2011

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