

STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS

The Board of Education recognizes the educational values inherent in student participation in the extracurricular life of the school, and supports the concept of the formation of student groups for such purposes as building sound social relationships, developing interests in an academic area, and gaining an understanding of the elements and responsibilities of good citizenship.

The Superintendent of Schools or designee, with the aid of students, faculty and administration, is charged with developing procedures for registering and regulating student groups or clubs. Such procedures shall ensure that the District will register any group organized for a purpose not prohibited by Board policy or by law, if such group submits a list of its members designated as contacts, a copy of its constitution and/or bylaws, and the constitution and bylaws of any off-campus organization with which it may be affiliated. Student groups may not restrict membership on the basis of race, sex, national origin or other arbitrary criteria.

The Board prohibits the formation of any clubs, including fraternities or sororities, or any secret society, whose deliberations and activities have caused or created, or are likely to cause or create, a disruption of or interference with the school program.

The District shall maintain a limited open forum and shall not deny equal access or a fair opportunity to or discriminate against any students who wish to conduct a meeting within the limited open forum on the basis of religious, political, or philosophical opinion at such meetings. Procedures for the organization of such groups or meetings will be specified by the Superintendent or designee.

Ref: Education Law §1709-a; 2503-a; 2554-a
Equal Access Act, 20 U.S.C. §4071-4074
Board of Education of the Westside Community Schools v. Mergens, 496 U.S. 226 (1990)
Garnett By Smith v. Renton School Dist. No. 403, 865 F.2d 1121 (9th Cir., 1989)
Thompson v. Waynesboro Area School Dist., 673 F.Supp. 1379 (M.D. Pa. 1987)
Student Coalition v. Lower Merion School Dist. Bd., 633 F.Supp. 1040 (E.D. Pa. 1986)
Tinker v. Des Moines Independent Community School Dist., 393 U.S. 503, 89 S.Ct. 733 (1969)
Healy v. James, 408 U.S. 169, 92 S.Ct. 2338 (1972)

Adopted: June 21, 2006

Reaffirm: December 2, 2009

Reaffirm: July 1, 2013

Revised: June 15, 2016