

STUDENT ORGANIZATION (SECONDARY SCHOOLS)

Generally Public school facilities are devoted primarily to instructional programs and school-sponsored activities. Curriculum-related student organizations are an extension of the regular school program. Their function is to enhance the participants' educational experience and supplement course materials. The activities of these organizations shall bear a clear relationship to the regular curriculum.

Secondary school students may organize and conduct meetings of non-curriculum related groups. Any secondary school which permits one or more non-curriculum-related student groups to meet on school premises during non-instructional time provides equal access to any students who wish to conduct a meeting without discrimination on the basis of the religious, political, philosophical, or other content of the speech at such meetings.

Non-curriculum-related student groups may use school facilities provided that

- the group's meetings are voluntary and student-initiated;
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- the group is not sponsored by the school, the government, or any government Agent or employee;
- agents or employees of the school or government are present at religious meetings only in a non-participatory capacity;
- meetings do not materially and substantially interfere with the orderly conduct of educational activities at the school; and
- non-school persons do not direct, conduct, control, or regularly attend activities of the group.

Meetings of Student Organizations

The principal of each school determines the times and places which are available for the meetings of student organizations. The principal also develops procedures for scheduling meetings of student organizations. Meeting times are limited to non-instructional time.

All non-curriculum student organizations shall have the right to meet on school premises during time designated by the school principal. No student organization shall be denied equal 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. No public funding or support shall be extended to any non-curriculum-related student organization other than the opportunity to meet on school premises on an equal basis as other student organizations.

Faculty Involvement

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Curriculum-related student organizations must be sponsored and supervised by one or more school faculty members and approved by the principal. Faculty sponsors participate in the supervision and direction of all activities of the organization and attend all meetings and activities.

Non-curriculum-related student organizations do not have a faculty sponsor. However, a member of the school's staff attends every meeting or activity of such organizations in a non-participatory capacity for purposes of general supervision. The organization is responsible for assuring the presence of a staff member for its meetings.

No school employee is compelled to attend a meeting of any student organization if the content of such meeting is contrary to the beliefs of that school employee.

Compliance with Law and Policy

Student organizations shall not engage in any activity which is contrary to law, division policy or school rules; which disrupts or clearly threatens to disrupt the orderly operation of the school; or which would adversely affect the health, safety or welfare of any students or staff members. Failure to comply with these provisions is grounds for disciplinary action.

Adopted: July 16, 1998
Revised: July 5, 2012
Reviewed: June 20, 2017
Revised: August 4, 2022

Legal References: 20 USC§ 4071
Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended, §22.1-23.3

Cross References: KF Distribution of Information/Materials
KG Community Use of School Facilities