

## 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, with the aid of students, faculty and administration, shall develop general guidelines for student organizations. Among other provisions, such guidelines shall require the assignment of at least one faculty advisor to each organization. Board approval shall be required prior to the formation of any student organization that will receive or expend money.

The Board will abolish or prohibit the formation of any clubs, including fraternities or sororities, or any other 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.

Staff members shall report any interference of the academic process or progress by any fraternity, sorority or secret society to the Building Principal. The Principal shall conduct an appropriate investigation and issue his/her findings together with a recommendation to the Superintendent. The Superintendent shall then make a recommendation for Board action.

### *Student Meetings*

Administrative regulations governing the use of school facilities shall abide by the Equal Access Act in the creation of a "limited open forum" for non-curriculum related student activities. All non-curricula related student activities, regardless of religious or political content, shall have the same opportunities as any other such activity to operate on school grounds.

Students may hold meetings during non-instructional hours and shall be afforded a fair opportunity for access to the facilities of the school they attend for those meetings, subject to the limitations contained in the Equal Access Act.

Any students and any organizations holding meetings in school facilities are expressly prohibited from indicating in any way that the philosophy, views or objectives which they espouse are in any way approved or endorsed by the school district.

### *Inactive Organizations*

If any student organization is eliminated and/or has been inactive, the Board may authorize the Superintendent to locate former club officers and offer them the opportunity to authorize the appropriate disposition of the unexpended club funds. In the event that no club officers are still matriculated students in the school district, the Board may direct that the unexpended club funds be transferred to the appropriate Student Council: or general student account. \* proposed change/addition

Cross-ref: 5200, Cocurricular and Extracurricular Activities  
5252, Student Activities Funds Management

Ref: Education Law §§207; 1709-a; 2503-a; 2554-a  
Equal Access Act, 20 U.S.C. §§4071-4074  
8 NYCRR Part 172

*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)

Approved: July 1, 2001