



SECTION IV: STUDENTS

POLICY 4335

STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS, GROUPS and CLUBS

The Board of Education is committed to the proposition that student participation in student activities and organizations can advance educational goals and otherwise benefit students and that District policies should further students' opportunities for participation. In allowing and furthering student activities and organizations, the Board is mindful of the dictates of the United States Constitution and the federal Equal Access Act. This policy is adopted to implement these goals in the District's secondary schools.

Curriculum-Based (School-Sponsored) Student Organizations

1. The District may sponsor student organizations that the Board determines are in furtherance of and consistent with the educational objectives of the District and directly related to the District's curriculum ("curriculum-based student organizations"). In addition to the foregoing, in determining whether an organization will be sponsored by the District the following factors may be considered: if the subject matter of the group is actually taught, or will soon be taught, in a regularly offered course; if the subject matter of the group concerns the body of District courses as a whole; if participation in the group is required for a particular course; or if participation in the group results in academic credit.
2. An organization shall be considered to be directly related to the District's curriculum if it is: (1) an extension, expansion, or application of material taught in a class; or (2) part of or an adjunct to student government, carrying out special projects or responsibilities.
3. School-sponsored student organizations must have a faculty sponsor, whose teaching field, education, background or other expertise is reasonably related to the purpose and goals of the group, and who may receive extra-duty compensation.
4. Application for District sponsorship shall be made by the proposed faculty sponsor and at least 10 students who intend to participate in the organization. Each proposed student organization will submit its membership requirements, organizational structure and provisions of a constitution or other document setting out organizational purpose and structure, subject to approval by the Superintendent or designee.
5. After the proposed organization and its constitution have received preliminary approval from the Superintendent or designee, the Board shall review and approve or disapprove the organization for sponsorship based on the standards set out in this policy and, if requested, on an opinion rendered by the District's legal counsel that the proposed organization meets the standards of this policy.

Non-curricular (Independent Student-Organized) Student Organizations

6. The secondary schools of this District shall make facilities available for meetings of non-curricular, independent student-organized groups (that is, student groups that are not officially sponsored by the District as stated in sections 1-5 above) subject to the following provisions. It is the District's intent to create a limited open forum under the federal Equal Access Act for non-curricular, independent student-organized groups pursuant to this policy.



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7. Meetings of non-curricular, independent student-organized groups may be held only during non-instructional time, including before or after school, during lunch hour or other non-instructional time. No student may attend a meeting when he or she has a scheduled class or is required by school rules or schedules to be elsewhere.
8. All meetings shall be student-initiated, student-led, and open to all students in the school. All student attendance at non-curricular, independent student-organized group meetings shall be voluntary.
9. No meeting may include any activity that is unlawful or that materially and substantially interferes with the orderly conduct of educational activities within the school.
10. An adult monitor, who must be a school employee, shall be present at all meetings and activities on school grounds. The school employee shall be present only in the capacity of monitor and may not participate in any form or fashion in the meeting or other activity of the non-curricular, independent student-organized group. The monitor is always to interact with the non-curricular, independent student-organized group solely in a custodial capacity and merely to insure good order and behavior. Prior to acting as a monitor and on annual basis thereafter every monitor must undergo training by the District as to the monitor's responsibilities under District policy and the Equal Access Act. No District employee will be assigned to attend and monitor any non-curricular, independent student-organized group if the goals or aims or content of the speech of the student group is contrary to the beliefs of the employee. The monitor may receive extra-duty compensation, or if paid hourly, will receive additional compensation (including OT premium if applicable) for the monitor duties.
11. Non-curricular, independent student-organized groups may invite outside speakers to their meetings, but no non-school persons may direct, control, conduct, or regularly attend meetings.
12. If students wish to meet in non-curricular, independent student-organized groups under this policy, they must file a request to meet with the building principal that lists: 1) the room in which they wish to meet and the time during which they will meet; 2) the name of one student who will serve as the contact between the group and school authorities; 3) the purpose of the group; and 4) the monitor who will be present at all meetings and activities on school grounds. If the group does not have a monitor, the student contact may request that the principal attempt to identify a person willing to serve as a monitor for the group, but the principal is not obligated to provide a monitor. The principal shall approve a non-curricular, independent student-organized group to meet on school property under this policy if it meets the requirements of this policy and shall notify the student contact person of his or her approval or, if it does not meet the requirements of this policy, the reasons for disapproval, within five school days of receipt of the request to meet. Once permitted to do so, an independent student-organized group may continue meeting for the remainder of the school year, unless it subsequently violates this or any other school policy.
13. In assigning meeting rooms to student organizations, the school shall not arbitrarily discriminate between or among curriculum-based, school-sponsored groups and non-curricular, independent student-organized groups. However, in assigning meeting rooms the school may consider the number of persons expected to attend and the needs of the organization.



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14. Meetings of non-curricular, independent student-organized groups may be announced by notices posted on bulletin boards in the school and other means of communications used by curriculum-based, school sponsored student organizations. Such announcements may contain only the name of the organization, the date, time and place of the meeting, and a brief identification of the subject of the meeting or a list of agenda items.
15. It is understood that participation in and the content and purposes of non-curricular, independent student-organized group meetings are neither approved nor disapproved by the District. The District is neutral as to the content of these meetings in that the District does not direct, control or sponsor the non-curricular, independent student-organized group.

Notice Regarding Student Organizations and Parental Right to Withhold Permission to Participate

16. Upon Request, the District shall provide notice to parents and guardians about curriculum-based, school-sponsored student organizations and non-curricular, school recognized organizations. The notice shall include at least a list of the names of the clubs or organizations; their individual missions or purposes; and the names of the faculty advisors.
17. If curriculum-based, school-sponsored student organizations are created or formed after the annual notice is distributed, the District shall send supplemental notice through the District's website or by any other means it deems appropriate. Like the annual notice, the supplemental notice shall specify at least the name of the organization, its mission or purpose and the name of its faculty advisor.
18. Parents and guardians may notify the District that they are withholding permission for their student to join or participate in one or more extracurricular school-sponsored student organizations. However, parents and guardians may not withhold permission for student participation in clubs and organizations that are necessary for a required course of instruction.
19. Parents and guardians are solely responsible for preventing their student from participating in a club or organization for which they have withheld their permission. Parents and guardians are also solely responsible for retrieving their student from attendance at a club or organization for which permission has been withheld.
20. Nothing in this policy prevents a club or organization from meeting when a student who is not authorized to participate is present.
21. The District may, but is not required to provide annual (or supplemental) notice to parents and guardians about non-curricular, independent student-organized groups, as they are not groups directed or controlled by the District. If notice of such groups is provided, the notice shall indicate that the group is a non-curricular, independent student-organized group, the purpose of the group, and the fact that the group will be monitored.

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Broken Arrow Board of Education policy revised, July 10, 2017.