

STUDENTS - Series 500

503 Student Activities

503.2 Student Organizations

Secondary school student initiated noncurriculum-related groups and student curriculum-related groups, upon receiving permission from the principal, may use school facilities for group meetings during non-instructional time.

Non-instructional time shall mean any time before the first period in the day and after the last period of the day in which any student attends class. Meetings shall not interfere with the orderly conduct of the educational program or other school district operations. It shall be within the discretion of the building principal to determine whether the meetings will interfere with the orderly conduct of the educational program or other school district operations. Activities relating to and part of the educational program shall have priority over the activities of any other organization. This includes any time during which the school requires the particular student or all students to be off school property or outside the school building.

Curriculum-Related Organizations

It shall be the responsibility of the building principal to determine whether a student group is curriculum-related. Any of the following questions will be answered affirmatively if the group is curriculum-related:

- Is the subject matter of the group actually taught in a regularly offered course?
- Will the subject matter of the group soon be taught in a regularly offered course?
- Does the subject matter of the group concern the body of courses as a whole?
- Is participation in the group required for a particular course?
- Does participation in the group result in academic credit?

Secondary school curriculum-related student organizations may use the school facilities for meetings and other purposes before and after the instructional school day. School district personnel shall be assigned to monitor approved meetings and may interact with curriculum-related organizations.

No student curriculum-related group shall exist unless it is approved by the Board of Education. The superintendent shall make recommendations to the Board for groups seeking approval. Applications for organizations shall be relayed to the superintendent through the building principal.

If regulations are not complied with, the organization may be disbanded and the Board may bring disciplinary action against the students.

Noncurriculum-Related Organizations

Student initiated noncurriculum-related organizations shall be provided access to meeting space and school facilities.

Only students in the West Branch Schools may attend and participate in meetings of noncurriculum-related groups. Such attendance shall be strictly voluntary and student initiated. As a means of determining whether a student's' attendance is' voluntary, the school principal may require parental consent for the student to attend the meetings.

School district personnel will be required to monitor approved meetings. School district personnel shall not participate in the meeting or assist in planning, criticizing, or encouraging attendance. Non-school persons cannot direct, conduct, control or regularly attend activities or meetings of these noncurriculum-related, student-initiated groups. The students will be responsible for finding school district personnel to be present. No teacher will be compelled to agree to be present at any student meeting.

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.

It is understood that the content of these student meetings is not sponsored by the school district. The school district is neutral as to the content of these meetings, if the meetings comply with the above policies.

If students wish to meet under this policy, they must file a request to meet with the principal which 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 the school authorities; and 3) the teacher who will be present. The principal shall approve a meeting if it meets the requirements of this policy and shall notify the student contact person of his approval or, if it does not meet the requirements of this policy, his reasons for disapproval within 2 days of the submission of the request to meet. Once approved, a student group may continue meeting for the remainder of the school year, unless it subsequently violates this policy.

Adoption Date: December 9, 1991

Review Date: January 12, 2009

Revision Date: January 12, 2009

Legal References: Westside Community Board of Education v Mergens, 110 S.Ct. 2356 (1990).
Bender v Williamsport Area Community School District, 741 F.2d 538 (3d Circ. 1984), vacated and remanded on other grounds, 106 S.Ct. 1326 (1986). 20 U.S.C.A. SS4071 et seq. (1989).
Iowa Code SS 287.1 - .3, 297.9 (1989).

Cross References: 500 Statement of Guiding Principles for Students
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