

Unity School District - Board of Education

Board Policy 371.1

Student-Initiated Clubs and Similar Organizations

Last Revised 10/11/2022

The District permits the formation of voluntary, noncurricular student organizations at the high school level. Such organizations are generally interest-based groups whose meetings and activities are planned and run by current students whose primary school of enrollment and attendance is a District school. While noncurricular student organizations are subject to regulation by the District, they are not District-sponsored and are not District-directed co-curricular or extracurricular activities. A District staff member or other agent of the District may be assigned to qualified noncurricular student organizations for general custodial purposes, including serving as an initial point-of-contact for the group's operational questions.

Third-party individuals or organizations who are not affiliated with the District may not create, be members of, regularly attend, or direct or control the activities of a noncurricular student organization.

To take advantage of access to school facilities (e.g., for meeting time/space) and any other benefits that may be offered to noncurricular student organizations at a particular school, such an organization must be registered through a process that shall be administratively defined.

1. The administration is authorized to establish lawful criteria and procedures for the registration, recognition, operation, and possible discontinuation of noncurricular student organizations, which may include, for example, a requirement for a showing of interest and/or a requirement to hold regular meetings or other activities at school. Such criteria and other rules may vary, subject to final oversight by the District Administrator or his/her administrative-level designee.
2. The registration and operation of a noncurricular student organization may be denied for lawful reasons, such as that the group intends to engage in or advocate criminal conduct or engage in or advocate activities that pose an unreasonable risk to health and safety.
3. Noncurricular student organizations may not discriminate in their membership or in their activities in a manner that would violate the District's student nondiscrimination policies. However, the District also acknowledges its obligation to avoid engaging in any unlawful discrimination against any proposed or active student organization, or participating student, on the basis of, for example, the religious, political, or philosophical content or viewpoint of such an organization or its activities or speech.

The District reserves all lawful power and authority to maintain order and discipline on District premises, to prevent disruption of instructional time and activities, and to protect the well-being of students and staff. If the District determines that a student's conduct inappropriately disrupts the meetings or activities of a noncurricular student group, or that any student's conduct violates other District policies, rules, or directives, the District may deny the student permission to continue to participate in the group and the student may be subject to other District-imposed disciplinary consequences.