

4540 STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS

I. PHILOSOPHY AND PURPOSE

Weber School District (District) supports and encourages students to ~~allows its schools to determine the formation of student organizations. Its schools may encourage students~~ broaden their knowledge and citizenship by permitting the formation of clubs and groups organized to promote or pursue specialized activities outside the classroom. The District believes the formation of clubs and groups provides a more rich educational experience as well as an opportunity to develop friendships with similar interests and hobbies, also serving to enrich the educational experience.

II. POLICY

The purpose of this policy is to provide guidance to schools regarding authorization of clubs and groups as outlined in state law and Utah State Board of Education Administrative Rules. The District will not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex (sexual orientation and/or gender identity), disability, or religion in the formation of District clubs or groups. For purposes of this policy, "clubs" are related to school curriculum and are sponsored by the school district; "groups" are not related to school curriculum, and not sponsored by the school district.

III. DEFINITIONS

- A. **School Curricular ("Clubs"):** Directly related to the curriculum offered in the school where the Club is organized. School Curricular Clubs are sponsored and promoted by the school. The school principal or a designee shall appoint an advisor to the Club who supports the Club and may participate in, as well as direct Club programs and activities.
- B. **Student Non-curricular ("Groups"):** Not directly related to the curriculum and which are initiated by students enrolled in the school. Student Non-curricular Groups are not sponsored or supported by the school or district but are recognized for purposes of granting a place within the particular school to meet during non-instructional time. Student Non-curricular Groups shall have a minimum of three members. A certified employee monitors all meetings held on school premises but does not participate in any activity or discussion of the Group. If the school maintains a "limited open forum," then it must grant equal access to all non-curriculum student Groups meeting the criteria of this policy.
- C. **Co-Curricular:** means an activity, a course, or a program that is an extension of a curricular activity; is included in an instructional plan and supervised or conducted by a teacher or education professional; is conducted outside of regular school hours; is provided, sponsored, or supported by an LEA; and includes a required regular school day activity, course, or program. All CTSOs are considered co-curricular and not subject to the application process of this policy.
- C. **Limited Open Forum:** Can be created whenever a public secondary school provides an opportunity for one or more "Groups" to meet on school premises during non-instructional time.
- D. **Closed Forum:** Each school and the Board of Education, for the district as a whole, reserves the right to create a "closed forum" by refusing to allow all Groups to use

school property during non-instructional time.

IV. PROCEDURE

A. Groups

1. Elementary schools may not have Groups.
2. The District must meet the following requirements if access to District facilities is granted to ~~qualifying non-curriculum~~ student Groups:
 - i. the application procedure has been complied with by the Groups; and
 - ii. the school district may review applications on a case-by-case basis and refuse to grant access to any Group which:
 - a. impairs the ability of the school to maintain order and discipline on school premises; or
 - b. threatens the school's ability to protect the well-being of students or faculty; or
 - c. threatens the ability of the school to ensure that attendance of students at the Group's meetings is voluntary.

3. Meetings

- i. meetings of student Groups are voluntary and student-initiated;
- ii. meetings there is no sponsorship of student Group meetings by the school district or by district employees.
- iii. employees of the school district are present only in a non-participatory capacity;
- iv. meetings of Groups do not materially or substantially interfere with the orderly conduct of education activities of the school;
- v. non-school persons may not direct, conduct, control, or regularly attend activities of Groups on-campus without the prior approval of the principal;
- vi. Meetings of Groups shall take place during non-instructional time.

a. Scheduling

1. All events planned by a faculty ~~monitor~~ ~~advisor~~ of a student group must be placed on the school calendar in the office and with the approval of the principal. This must be done by the ~~monitor~~ ~~advisor~~ and not by a student. For an event utilizing school facilities, a proper form must be filed in the office at least one week before the date of the activity.

vii. Meetings Held On Campus

- a. All designated ~~monitors~~ ~~advisors~~ shall be present at on-campus meetings

and functions unless excused by the principal for good reason. ~~Sponsors must insist that class meetings be held according to the basic principles of parliamentary procedure.~~

viii. Night Meetings

- a. Night meetings of school Groups shall be held only on school property under the direction and control of the ~~monitor advisor~~ of the organization concerned and only after proper arrangements have been made with the school's administrative authorities and custodial staff. School-sponsored activities should take place only on school property and any exceptions to this must be approved by the principal.
4. The principal or designee may determine which school facilities may be used and when they are available.
 5. Only authorized Groups attending the particular school may request to use rooms or schedule Group meetings.
 6. Each school shall determine what access all Groups will be given to the school newspaper, school yearbook, bulletin boards, and public address system; provided that all such Groups shall be given equal access.
 7. No Groups shall be permitted to engage in or conduct group therapy, counseling or other psychological services of the type provided by licensed professionals.

D. Approval Process for Clubs or Groups

1. Students or school staff seeking authorization to establish a Club or Group shall prepare an annual charter identifying whether the ~~organization is a~~ Club or Group. The CLUB or GROUP Charter shall include
 - i. the recommended name;
 - ii. a statement of the Club's or Group's purpose;
 - iii. a statement of the Club's or Group's categorization indicating all of the following that may apply:
 - a. athletic;
 - b. business/economic;
 - c. agricultural;
 - d. art/music/performance;
 - e. science;
 - f. gaming;
 - g. religious;
 - h. community service/social justice; and

- i. other.
- iv. a budget showing the amount and source of any funding provided or to be provided to the club and its proposed use.
- v. a statement verifying the Club or Group will comply with all applicable laws, rules, and policies.

E. Limitations and Denial

1. Limitations shall include prohibitions against:
 - i. action or advocacy of imminent action which violates the law or administrative rules; this prohibition shall not apply to appropriate discussions concerning the changing of laws or rules, or actions taken through appropriate channels or procedures to effectuate such changes;
 - ii. advocacy or approval of sexual activity outside of marriage, or presentations in violations of laws or regulations governing sex education or privacy rights of families or individuals;
 - iii. action or advocacy of imminent action involving the harassment or the denigration of any person; and
 - iv. action or advocacy of imminent action with the intent to cause a person to fear to freely exercise or enjoy any right secured by the Constitution or laws of the United States or the state of Utah.
2. A school may limit or deny a charter to a Club or Group if necessary to:
 - i. protect the physical, emotional, psychological, or moral well-being of students and faculty;
 - ii. maintain order and discipline on school premises; or
 - iii. prevent a material and substantial interference with the orderly conduct of a school's educational activities.
3. A school shall deny access to any student Club or Group whose program or activities would materially or substantially:
 - i. encourage criminal or delinquent conduct;
 - ii. promote bigotry; or
 - iii. involve human sexuality.
4. Approval of a Club or Group name may take place separately from that relating to the approval of the Club or Group itself. A Club or Group name shall:
 - i. reasonably reflect the nature, purposes, and activities of the Club or Group; and
 - ii. be such that it would not result in undue disruption of school operations, subject students to harassment or persecution, imply that the Club or Group

would operate in violation of law or rule, or imply inappropriate association with outside organizations or groups.

F. Supervision

1. Selection and appointment of Club advisors and Group monitors shall be the responsibility of the school principal and will be done annually.
2. Persons who are not part of the school shall not be allowed access to Clubs or Groups to direct, conduct, control, or regularly attend Club or Group meetings without prior approval of the principal.
3. The advisor or monitor shall ensure compliance with the approved Club or Group charter and applicable laws and rules.
4. The principal or designee may cancel the authorization for any Club or Group found to be operating out of compliance with the approved charter or laws and rules.

G. Parental Permission for Participation

1. As a candidate for participation in a Club or Group that meets on school premises, the District will require every student to obtain written permission from either a parent with legal custody or other legal guardian. The written permission form shall include the following:
 - i. the name of the Club or Group;
 - ii. statement of the Club's or Group's purpose, goals, or activities;
 - iii. statement of the Club's or Group's categorization (see information under the section on Club or Group Charter).

H. Investigation of Violations

1. The principal will investigate any allegation that a Club or Group is not following the guidelines as described in this policy and in its charter. If the principal finds the Club or Group to be in violation, the following actions may be taken:
 - i. allow the original statement of purpose, goals, and activities be modified to include the activity in question;
 - ii. instruct the faculty advisor or the certified employee monitor not to allow similar violations in the future;
 - iii. limit or suspend the Club's or Group's authorization or school building use; or
 - iv. terminate the Club's or Group's authorization and dissolve the Club or Group. The Club or Group would not be allowed to reapply until the next school year.

I. Appeal

1. The principal will approve, deny, or investigate each completed application or complaint in a reasonable amount of time.

2. If the application or complaint is denied, written reasons for the denial or the results of the investigation will be stated. If appropriate, suggested corrections shall be made to remedy the situation.
 - i. A student directly affected by the denial of a Club or Group authorization at the school level may appeal in writing within ten (10) days of the denial to the Director of Student Services. The Student Services Director may convene a District Committee to review an appeal.
 - ii. The Director shall issue an opinion in writing either upholding or overturning the denial within a reasonable amount of time after receiving the appeal.
 - iii. The Director's decision shall be the final administrative decision.

J. Fees

1. Co-curricular and curricular clubs are subject to the District's fee schedule and fee waivers.
2. Non-curricular Groups are not subject to the District's fee schedule or fee waivers.
 - a. Generally, fees are discouraged for Groups. If a Group collects fees, the Group's annual charter must include a budget showing the amount and source of any funding provided or to be provided to the Group and its proposed use.
 - b. Fees for Groups may be collected and held at the school up to \$500.00. Any account that exceeds \$500.00 must be maintained off campus in a private account.
 - c. A group must spend down their account balance to \$0.00 by the end of the school year. If a Group's account balance has not been spent down to \$0.00 by the end of the school year, each member of the Group will be refunded an equal amount of the remaining balance.

Approved by the Board 11/07/2007