

BP 6145.5 STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS AND EQUAL ACCESS

Note: If a public secondary school allows one or more noncurriculum-related groups to meet on school premises during noninstructional time, the federal Equal Access Act (Title VII, Public Law 98-377) states that any other student-initiated group also must be allowed to meet in a "limited open forum" without regard to its religious, political or philosophical views. As amended by the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 and the Every Student Succeeds Act, after adopting a facility use policy, districts must ensure that the policy is applied equitably to all groups, including the Boy Scouts and other affiliated groups. Option #1 below may be used by districts that have a limited open forum. Option #2 is for districts that have established a "closed forum," permitting access only to student organizations that are tied directly to the curriculum. In that elementary schools are not addressed by the Equal Access Act, elementary districts may use and/or modify language from either option without regard to establishing open or closed forum.

Closed Forum

The School Board believes that curriculum-related student organizations have an important place in students' lives. Besides extending and reinforcing the instructional program, such groups can enhance students' social development, give them practice in democratic self-government, and honor outstanding student achievement.

All student organizations must be approved by the School Board and officially sponsored by the school. In order to maintain a closed forum on school campuses, these groups must relate directly to the curriculum in accordance with law.

(cf. 1321 - Solicitation of funds)

(cf. 1325 - Advertising and Promotion)

(cf. 1330 - Use of School Facilities)

(cf. 3452 - Student Activity Funds)

(cf. 3554 - Other Food Sales)

(cf. 5145.2 - Freedom of Speech/Expression)

Legal Reference:

ALASKA STATUTES

[14.03.060](#) Elementary, junior high, and secondary schools

[14.30.510](#) ~~TITLE - Alaska student leadership development fund~~

UNITED STATES CODE

~~Title VII - THE EQUAL ACCESS ACT, The Equal Access Act, 20 U.S.C.A. Section 4071 et seq., as amended by the Every Student Succeeds Act, No Child Left Behind Act, of 2001, 20 U.S.C. § 7905~~

U.S. SUPREME COURT

Prince v. Jacoby, 303 F.3d 1074 (9th Cir. 2002)

Board of Education of Westside Community Schools v. Mergens, 110 S.Ct. 2356 (1990)

Student Coalition for Peace v Lower Merion School, (1985) 776 F.2d 431 (3rd Cir. 1985)

Adopted: April 28, 2004

Northwest Arctic Borough School District