

CO-CURRICULAR STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS

Adams 12 Five Star Schools supports a diverse co-curricular program that addresses the needs and interests of all students and members of the learning community and recognizes that co-curricular activities are an integral part of a comprehensive school. Schools may allow organizations, clubs or activities based on the needs and interests of the particular school community.

1.0 General Principles. All school-sponsored organizations and non-school sponsored clubs or groups shall be open for membership on a voluntary basis to all interested and/or eligible students currently enrolled in the school at which meetings or activities are held. Membership practices may not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, sexual orientation or disability. Qualifications based on sex may be imposed only where necessary to preserve the health, safety or welfare of students, or where sex is a bona fide and integral qualification for the activities of the organization, club or group. Membership based on academic qualifications is permitted when reasonably related to the purposes of the organization, club or group.

1.1 All forms of hazing are prohibited in student organizations, clubs or groups.

1.2 Fraternities, sororities and/or secret societies shall not receive recognition in any manner under this policy.

1.3 No student organization, club or group shall be denied equal access to school facilities solely on the basis of the religious, political or other content of any speech at the meetings.

1.4 All student organizations, clubs or groups shall have the right to meet on school premises during non-instructional time provided that meetings do not interfere with the orderly conduct of the educational activities of the school. The principal/designee of each school shall determine matters relating to the scheduling and use of available facilities. For the purpose of this policy, “non-instructional time” means time before or after classroom instruction.

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1.5 Student organizations, clubs or groups shall follow all laws, District policies, and school rules, including but not limited those relating to field trips, fundraising, fees, building use, material use, advertising, communication, publicity, and behavior.

1.6 Student organizations, clubs or groups shall not engage in any activity which is contrary to law, District policy or school rule, which disrupts or clearly threatens to disrupt the orderly operation of the school, or that would adversely affect the health, safety or welfare of any students or staff members.

2.0 School-Sponsored. School sponsored student organizations are directly related to the school curriculum, may be offered for credit, and are approved by the appropriate building level committee or elementary principal/ designee.

2.1 Secondary schools in the District may encourage students to broaden their knowledge and citizenship by forming Organizations that directly relate to and enhance the school curriculum.

2.2 Such organizations shall have a faculty advisor or sponsor who must attend every meeting of the student organization whether conducted on school premises or at another location. The faculty sponsor shall provide organizational support and supervise all functions.

2.3 Only school sponsored student organizations shall be allowed at elementary schools in the district.

3.0 Non-School Sponsored. Non-school sponsored student clubs or groups are not related to curriculum and are not offered for credit.

3.1 Secondary schools in the District may allow students to organize and conduct meetings of non-curricular related student clubs or groups to pursue designated activities outside the classroom. Such clubs or groups shall not be considered school sponsored, and shall not be given all the privileges of school sponsored student organizations.

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3.2 Non-school sponsored student clubs or groups must be student-initiated and directed. School staff members not assigned to monitor a meeting or activity, parents, or other adults or students not currently enrolled at the school are prohibited from directing, controlling, or regularly attending the activities or meetings of non-school sponsored student clubs or groups.

3.3 A school staff member monitor must be present on school premises during any meeting or activity of a non-school sponsored student club or group for the purpose of general supervision only. Under no circumstances shall the school compel a faculty member or school staff member to monitor or attend a meeting of a non-school sponsored student club or group if the content of the speech at the meeting is contrary to the beliefs of the school staff member.

3.4 In providing equal access to school facilities for non-school sponsored clubs or groups, the District does not advocate, endorse, express any opinion about, approve, or disapprove of the subject matter discussed or point of view expressed by any student club or group allowed by this policy.

3.5 Elementary schools shall not have non-school sponsored student groups or clubs.

4.0 Not Community Use. Nothing in this policy shall be construed to alter the district's community use guidelines set forth under superintendent policy 1300.

5.0 Advertising. Schools shall develop rules, including those addressing time, place and manner, for the advertising of student organizations, clubs or groups within the school and on the school web pages, and shall make the rules available to all students. Student organizations, clubs or groups shall follow the school rules and be granted equal access to publicity forums so long as it does not disrupt the learning environment.

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6.0 Formation. In order to establish a student organization, club, or group, the following steps must be completed:

6.1 Students or teachers interested in creating a new student organization, club, or group must meet with the building activities committee or principal's designee.

6.2 Potential organizers are supplied with appropriate applications and related information.

6.3 Applications must be completed and returned to the school prior to October 1.

6.4 The request for a new student organization, club, or group will be brought to the appropriate building level committee(s) or the elementary principal/designee for approval or denial.

6.5 Approved student organizations will be defined as school-sponsored and approved student clubs or groups will be defined as non-school sponsored according to this policy, as determined by appropriate building level committee(s) or principals/designees.

7.0 Yearbook Coverage. School sponsored student organizations may be identified in the yearbook by organization name and include individual member names. Non-school sponsored student clubs or groups may be included in the "Student Life" section of the yearbook. Candid photos may include individual names but may not include name of organization.

LEGAL REFERENCES:

Equal Access Act
C.R.S. 22-1-117 and C.R.S 22-1-118

CROSS REFERENCE:

Code: 5080