STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS

The Board of Education recognizes that education values inherent in student participation in the extracurricular life of the school, and supports the concept of the formation of student groups for such purposes as building sound social relationships, developing interests in an academic area, and gaining an understanding of the elements and responsibilities of good citizenship.

The Superintendent of Schools, with the aid of students, faculty and administration, is charged with developing procedures for registering and regulating student groups or clubs. Such procedure shall ensure that the district will register any group organized for a purpose not prohibited by Board policy or by law, if such group submits a list of its members designated as contacts, a copy of its constitution and/or bylaws, and the constitution and bylaws of any off-campus organization with which it may be affiliated. Student groups may not restrict membership on the basis of race, sex, national origin or other arbitrary criteria.

Students desiring to form an extracurricular activity shall petition their Student Senate and Building Principal in writing. The petition shall state the purpose and describe the activities of the proposed extracurricular activity, and shall be signed by at least seventeen students before it is presented to the Student Senate and Principal for action. A faculty advisor will be appointed to supervise the activity, according to school rules and regulations.

All extracurricular activities shall be approved by the Board. The Building Principal shall maintain an up-to-date register of all extracurricular activities that are approved or discontinued.

The Board prohibits the formation of any clubs, including fraternities or sororities, or any other secret society, that promotes exclusive membership, whose deliberations and activities have caused or created, or are likely to cause or create, a disruption of or interference with the school program.

Administrative regulations governing the use of school facilities shall abide by the Equal Access Act in the creation of a “limited open forum.” All non-curricula related student activities, regardless of religious or political content shall have the same opportunities as any other such activity to operate on school grounds.

Cross-ref: 5252, Student Activities Funds Management

Ref: Education Law §§207; 1709-a; 2503-a; 2554-a
8 NYCRR Part 172
Board of Education of the Westside Community Schools v. Mergens, 496 U.S. 226 (1990)
Garnett By Smith v. Renton School Dist. No. 403, 865 F.2d 1121 (9th Cir., 1989)
Healy v. James, 408 U.S. 169, 92 S.Ct. 2338 (1972)

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