

STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS

The Board of Education recognizes the educational 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 procedures 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.

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

The Board prohibits the use of school facilities by students of the district for meetings or other activities which are not part of a curriculum-related or other school-sponsored activity. In order to qualify as "curriculum-related," the relationship between the student groups and curriculum must meet one of the following criteria:

1. The subject matter of the group or club must actually be taught or will be taught in a regularly scheduled course.
2. The subject matter of the group must concern the body of courses as a whole.
3. Participation in the group is a course requirement.
4. Academic credit is earned for participation in the group.

Examples of a curriculum-related or other school-sponsored activity include a school play, an athletic activity, yearbook committee, and academic subject clubs, such as language, band, choral and the like.

Cross-ref: 5200, Cocurricular and Extracurricular Activities
5252, Student Activities Funds Management

Ref: Education Law §§207; 1709-a; 2503-a; 2554-a
Equal Access Act, 20 U.S.C.A. §§4071-4074
8 NYCRR Part 172
Matter of Jimenez, 9 EDR 172
Board of Education of the Westside Community Schools v. Mergens, No. 88-159 (U.S. June 4, 1990)

HANCOCK CENTRAL SCHOOL

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Garnett By Smith v. Renton School Dist. No. 403, 865 F.2d 1121 (9th Cir., 1989)

Thompson v. Waynesboro Area School Dist., 673 F.Supp. 1379 (1987)

Student Coalition v. Lower Merion School Dist. Bd., 633 F.Supp. 1040 (1986)

Tinker v. Des Moines Independent Community School Dist., 393 U.S. 503, 89 S.Ct. 733 (1969)

Healy v. James, 408 U.S. 169, 92 S.Ct. 2338 (1972)

ADOPTED: 10/12/93