

## STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS

The Board of Education recognizes the educational values inherent in student participation in the extra-curricular 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 regulations, procedures, and/or protocols for registering and regulating student groups or clubs. Such regulations, procedures, and/or protocols shall ensure 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.

In compliance with the Equal Access Act, all secondary schools shall be considered “limited open forums” and the Board will ensure equal access and fair opportunity for all students who wish to conduct meetings on school grounds. All noncurricular-related student activities, regardless of religious or political content, shall have the same opportunities as any other such activity to operate on school grounds during non-instructional times.

Ref: Education Law §§207; 2554-a  
 Equal Access Act, 20 U.S.C. §§4071-4074  
 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)  
*Thompson v. Waynesboro Area School Dist.*, 673 F.Supp. 1379 (M.D. Pa. 1987)  
*Student Coalition v. Lower Merion School Dist. Bd.*, 633 F.Supp. 1040 (E.D. Pa. 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)

Adoption date: May 8, 2007

Revised: April 21, 2021