

Approval of School Sponsored Student Groups

Schools in the District may encourage students to broaden their knowledge and citizenship by permitting the formation of school sponsored student groups that relate to subject matter covered by the curriculum. Such groups shall operate within the framework of state statutes, Board policy, administrative rules and the parameters of the learning program. Examples of such groups are student council and choir.

The principal is responsible for determining that the purpose of a student group is related to the curriculum.

Student groups shall be considered directly related to the curriculum if one or more of the following applies:

1. The subject matter of the group represents the primary or majority of content taught in a regularly offered District approved course.
2. The subject matter of the group concerns the body of school-wide courses as a whole.
3. Participation in the group is required for a particular course.
4. Academic credit or extra credit is given for participation in the group.

Each building principal shall develop general guidelines for the establishment and operation of curriculum-related school sponsored student groups within the particular school. Among other provisions, such guidelines shall require the approval of the principal prior to the formation of any student group in a school and the assignment of at least one faculty adviser to each approved student group.

The faculty adviser must attend every meeting of the curriculum-related student group whether conducted on school premises or at another location.

All student organizations are required to open membership to all interested and/or eligible students. Fraternities, sororities and/or secret societies shall not receive recognition in any manner under this policy.

All forms of hazing in initiations shall be prohibited in a curriculum-related student group. No initiation shall be held for such student groups which will bring criticism to the school system, be degrading and/or harmful to the student, or is unlawful.

When the principal denies students or staff the right to organize and conduct meetings as a curriculum-related student group, then students may seek permission to meet as a non-curricular student group in accordance with Board policy.

Adopted July 28, 1993

Revised to conform with practice June 8, 1994
Revised October 12, 2005

LEGAL REFS.: 20 U.S.C. §4071 *et. seq.* Denial of equal access prohibited
C.R.S. 22-1-117 Secret fraternities forbidden
C.R.S. 22-1-118 School board to enforce

CROSS REF.: JJAB, Open/Limited Open Forums (Non-curricular Student
Organizations)

St. Vrain Valley School District RE-1J, Longmont, Colorado