

### **Students**

#### **Student Activities – Student Use of Buildings – Equal Access**

The secondary schools of the District shall have a limited open forum and shall allow noncurriculum, student-initiated groups to meet on school premises for a meeting or series of meetings under the following conditions:

1. Noninstructional time is defined as time set aside by the school before actual classroom instruction begins or after actual classroom instruction ends.
2. The District shall allow equal access and a fair opportunity to use school buildings to those students who wish to conduct a meeting within that limited open forum and who make such request to the Building Principal.
3. student-initiated
4. the meeting is voluntary
5. the school will not sponsor the meeting
6. School employees are present at religious meetings only in a non-participatory capacity.
7. The meeting does not materially and subsequently interfere with the orderly conduct of educational activities within the school
8. Nonschool persons may not direct, conduct, control or regularly attend activities of student groups
9. The school, the agents or its employees shall have the authority to maintain order and discipline on school premises in order to protect the health and safety of students and faculty and to insure that attendance of students at meetings is voluntary
10. A school staff member or other responsible adult is present in a supervisory capacity.
11. The Superintendent or designee approves the meeting or series of meetings.

The Superintendent, Building Principal, or other appropriate District Administrators shall develop administrative procedures which will implement the guidelines set forth in this policy.

Application for use of school premises must be made at least one week in advance to the Building Principal, stating fully:

1. The purpose for which the premises are to be used;

2. The character of the program or activities;
3. The materials to be brought into or near the building;
4. The arrangement of the furniture in the rooms, including decorations;
5. The charges to be made to participate;
6. And any other information the building Principal might require.

In scheduling the use of school premises, activities associated with the District educational program shall have priority over the activities of any other organization; otherwise, school premises will be available in accordance with this policy on a first-come – first-served basis.

LEGAL REF.: Equal Access Act, 20 U.S.C. §4071 et seq.  
Board of Education of Westside Community School Dist. v. Mergens, 496 U.S. 226, 110 S.Ct. 2356, 110 L.Ed.2d 191 (1990).  
Gernetzke v. Kenosha Unified School Dist. No. 1, 274 F.3d 464 (7th Cir. 2001), *cert. denied*, 122 S.Ct. 1606.

CROSS REF.: 7:10 (Equal Education Opportunities), 8:20 (Community Use of School Facilities)

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