

Instruction

Student Organizations

Student organizations have an important place in the educational program. When properly organized and operated, they:

1. Extend and reinforce the instructional program.
2. Give students practice in democratic self-government
3. Build student moral and positive support for the school.
4. Honor outstanding student achievement.
5. Provide wholesome social and recreational activities.

School-sponsored organizations must be organized at the school, sponsored by school personnel, composed completely of current student body members, hold the majority of their meetings at school and have a democratic plan for the selection of members. Organizational activities shall not conflict with the authority and responsibilities of school officials.

District schools shall maintain a limited open forum during which students may hold meetings or activities not directly related to the school curriculum. The principal shall schedule this forum on noninstructional time so that it in no way interferes with regular school activities.

(cf. 6116 - Classroom Interruptions)

The Board shall not deny access to any student-initiated group on the basis of religious, political, philosophical or any other content to be addressed at such meetings.

The Superintendent or designee shall insure that meetings held within the limited open forum are voluntary and student-initiated, with no direction, control or regular attendance by nonschool persons.

School staff shall not promote or participate in these meetings, but may be assigned to simply observe them, provided that the meeting does not conflict with the staff member's beliefs.

Meetings held within the limited open forum shall entail no expenditure of public funds beyond the incidental cost of providing the meeting space. Any announcement of meetings shall clearly state that the group is not sponsored by the school or school staff.

Student Organizations (continued)

Authorization of use under the federal Equal Access Act does not indicate that the Board approves or advocates matters which are discussed at open forum meetings. Furthermore, religious groups granted access pursuant to the Equal Access Act are granted access only pursuant to that Act. Such access does not constitute district sanction of any particular religious belief.

Legal Reference:

EDUCATION CODE

40 Equal opportunity without regard to sex
 41 School sponsored athletic programs; prohibited sex discrimination
 200-262 Prohibition of discrimination on the basis of sex
 32050-32052 Hazing
 33352 Supervision of physical education by State Department of Education
 33353 California Interscholastic Foundation; governing board has power to select athletic league representatives
 33353.5 California Interscholastic Foundation; direct participation in student athletic insurance program; limitation of receipt of funds
 33354 Powers of State Department of Education over interscholastic Athletics
 35179 Powers and responsibilities of governing board over all aspects of interscholastic athletic programs, policies, and activities in its district; obligation to conform to law;; associations; nondiscriminatory programs; definitions
 48930-48938 Student organizations
 49020 Athletic programs: Legislative intent
 49021 Equal opportunity for male and female students
 49022 Apportionment of funds for male and female students
 49023 Expenditure of public funds; prohibited sex discrimination

CODE OF REGULATIONS, TITLE 5

5531 Supervision of extracurricular activities of pupils

PENAL CODE

627-627.10 Access to school facilities

TITLE VIII - THE EQUAL ACCESS ACT (Federal)

Hartzell v. Connell, 84 Daily Journal D.A.R. 1417 (April 20, 1984)

Perumal et al v. Saddleback Valley Unified School District, 88 Daily Journal D.A.R. 1426

Board of Education of Westside Community Schools v. Mergens, 58 U.S. Law Week 4720 (June 4, 1990)

(7/84 6/85 6/88 9/89) 9/90

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