

STUDENT-INITIATED GROUP USE OF DISTRICT FACILITIES
(K-12 Districts - Allowing Noncurricular Groups)

Pursuant to the Equal Access Act, secondary schools of the district will provide an opportunity for student-initiated, noncurricular groups to conduct meetings or activities on district property to the same extent that the district allows other noncurriculum-related student groups to meet on school premises during noninstructional time. Student-initiated groups will not be denied access on the basis of religious, political, philosophical or other content of speech at such meetings. The superintendent or designee may create administrative procedures to govern the use of school facilities by student-initiated noncurricular groups, for the purpose of this policy. Community use of school facilities is governed by policy KG.

To make use of the school facilities, a student-initiated noncurricular meeting must meet the following criteria:

- < The student-initiated groups must be limited to secondary school students and can only meet at secondary schools.
- < The meetings must be held during noninstructional times.
- < A meeting must be voluntary and student initiated. No student shall be in any way coerced to participate in religious activity.
- < Employees of the district or other adults may not sponsor, promote, or lead studentinitiated groups or meetings. However, a teacher, administrator or other school employee may be assigned to the meeting to monitor facility use and student conduct.
- < Employees and agents of the school are to be present solely in a nonparticipatory capacity at any student-initiated religious activity held at school and will strictly observe a policy of official neutrality regarding religious activity.
- < The meeting may not materially and substantially interfere with the orderly conduct of educational activities within the school.
- < Except for incidental building costs, no public funds will be expended for studentinitiated noncurriculum-related groups.

Student Conduct at Meetings

Students attending student-initiated groups or activities must follow all school rules and procedures governing student conduct. The school reserves the right to maintain order and discipline, as well as to protect the safety and well-being of students and employees.

Access to Communication Channels

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Noncurriculum-related, student-initiated groups at the secondary school level shall have the same access allowed to all other noncurriculum-related student groups to channels of communication for publicizing their meetings, including the public address system, designated bulletin boards, school newspapers and the calendar of events. However, the school may uniformly state in these media that such organizations or their meetings are not sponsored by the school.

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Note: The reader is encouraged to check the index located at the beginning of this section for other pertinent policies and to review administrative procedures and/or forms for related information.

Tentatively Approved: 03/19/09

Adopted: May 21, 2009

Revised: May 28, 2015

Cross Refs: KG, Community Use of School Facilities
KI, Public Solicitations/Advertising in District Facilities KKB,
Audio and Visual Recording

Legal Refs: The Equal Access Act (1984), 20 U.S.C. §§ 4701, 4702
"Religious Expression in Public Schools," U.S. Dept. of Education, May, 1998
Westside Community Bd. of Ed. v. Mergens, 496 U.S. 226 (1990)

East Carter County R-II School District, Ellsinore, Missouri

