

POLICY TITLE: Student Support Organizations

POLICY NO: 1030

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The District recognizes the importance of athletic and extracurricular activities in the well-rounded development of public school students. Participation in such athletic and activities programs builds character, a sense of responsibility and discipline, and promotes proper conduct, all of which are central to the educational mission of our school district.

The District further recognizes the financial contribution and service support which its athletic, extracurricular activities and co-curricular educational programs receive from parents and members of the community who have organized booster clubs, parent-teacher organizations (PTOs)/parent-teacher associations (PTAs), and other support groups with similar purposes. While such organizations have no official link to individual schools or the District, there is reason to help ensure that operations are conducted in a manner that follows acceptable practices. This policy is adopted to define the relationship between the Board and booster clubs, PTOs/PTAs, and similar groups whose purpose is to support the District's athletic activities (both sanctioned and unsanctioned) and educational programs.

For purposes of this policy, booster clubs, PTOs/PTAs, and other organizations with similar purposes shall be referred to as "student support organizations." Further, such student support organizations must receive Board approval in order to operate and use the name and logo of the District. Each student support organization must adhere to all applicable Board policies.

GROUP STATUS

Student support organizations are neither school-sponsored clubs nor student-initiated clubs as those clubs or groups are defined in Board policy. Student support organizations shall constitute "outside clubs or groups" which are school-related but must meet the terms of this policy in order to use the District's or an individual school's name, mascot, or logo, and to use District facilities as a school-related organization.

BOOSTER CLUBS

Booster clubs for athletics, marching band, drill team, cheerleading, drama, choir, or other athletic, fine arts, or academic activities (whether sanctioned or unsanctioned) are welcome to form, support and assist such student activities or programs, both financially and with volunteer assistance. Booster clubs must comply with the requirements of this policy in order to use the name of the individual school or District, school or District mascots or logos, and to have access to District facilities as a school-related organization.

All booster clubs must operate within the applicable standards and guidelines set by the Idaho High School Association, and shall not promote, encourage or acquiesce in any violation of student or team eligibility requirements, conduct codes or sportsmanship standards.

PTOs/PTAs

The Board of Trustees encourages the formation and operation of PTOs/PTAs at each school site or campus in the District to provide financial support or volunteer assistance to the school

PTOs/PTAs must comply with the requirements of this policy in order to use the name of the individual school or District, school or District mascot or logos, and to have access to District facilities as a school-related organization.

INFORMATION SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Each student support organization must prepare and submit to the Board a copy of its organizational bylaws, articles of incorporation, governance rules, and evidence of its 501(c)(3) status by presenting the same to the Board prior to initiating such support or assistance. Upon formation, each student support organization shall provide the Board with the names, telephone numbers, email addresses, and position held of each officer of the organization. Annually after approval, each student support organization shall provide the following information to the building principal or designee:

1. Names, telephone numbers, email addresses, mailing addresses, and position held of each officer; and
2. A copy of the following financial information, annually or upon written request:
 - a. Statement of income and expenditures;
 - b. Statement of donations made to the District;
 - c. Copy of monthly bank statements; and
 - d. Any other relevant information to determine financial solvency, when necessary.

ACCOUNTING BY STUDENT SUPPORT ORGANIZATIONS

Each student support organization must have its own checking account and the bylaws for the group must require two (2) signatures for any disbursement from that account. Student support organization funds and accounts are not District accounts and will not be included in the District's budgeting and accounting for annual District audit purposes. Funds collected by the student support organization are not to be deposited into the District's student activity accounts.

However, as an express condition to the Board's consent for the student organization to use the District's name, school name, school or District mascots or logos, or to use District facilities as a school-related organization, the student support organization shall provide annually a letter signed by all officers that the organization is in good financial standing and that all financial obligations have been met for the prior school year.

Officers of a student support organization shall be responsible for safeguarding any funds raised by the organization, and to ensure that the funds are spent only for purposes related to the goals and objectives of the student support organization, and the published or advertised reasons for the particular fundraising activity. The organization's bylaws shall specify reasonable procedures for internal financial control which shall be reviewed by the Board prior to approval of the student support organization.

The student support organization shall not represent or imply that its activities, contracts, purchases, or financial commitments are made on behalf of or binding upon any school of the District or the District itself. Such a statement shall appear on all purchase orders, contracts or other forms of financial commitment issued by the student support organization.

FUNDRAISING

Each student support organization shall be limited in fundraisers each school year which involve students in fundraising activities outside of the school setting. Student support organizations shall notify and obtain the approval of the building principal or designee to assure that scheduling of fundraisers does not conflict with District programs or activities, and that the fundraising activities shall comply with state and federal law, including but not limited to, Idaho Code §67-7701 *et seq.*, relating to bingo and raffles. School employees, including athletic coaches, trainers, or sponsors of school-sponsored student groups, shall not act as the primary organizers or spokespersons for any student support organization fundraising event. Participation in fundraising activities by a student support organization shall not be considered as a factor in a student's level of participation in any school activity or athletic program.

TITLE IX COMPLIANCE

The District discourages the formation or organization of student support organizations which sponsor, assist or support student activities or athletic programs which predominantly serve student participants of a single sex. In order to assure that contributions or support by student support organizations do not create inequities or significant disparities in the program, equipment and facilities made available to student participating in single sex sports, the student support organization shall only donate funds or tangible personal property contributed to the District's educational, extracurricular or athletic programs, by program or sport, through Board Policy 830 – Gifts, Grants and Bequests. Support provided to a single athletic program, regardless of source, must be included in the District's evaluation of its overall athletic program and the comparability of benefits made available to male versus female athletes.

NOTICE OF COMPLIANCE

At the beginning of each school year the District will publish the names of those student support organizations which are in compliance with this policy in the student handbook for the school or District. Groups or organizations which are not in compliance will not be identified, and the Board may refuse the consent of the District to use of the District's name, school name, campus or District mascot or logos, or the use of District facilities as a school-related organization.

LEGAL REFERENCE:

Office of Civil Rights, Title IX Athletics Investigators Manual, p.5
Idaho Code §33-506

ADOPTED: December 17, 2019