

**STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS AND EQUAL ACCESS**

The Board of Trustees of the San Dieguito Union High School District has provided for the establishment of a limited open forum at each school site. Because the district has established a limited open forum, the principal or designee shall not deny any student-initiated school group access to school facilities during noninstructional time on the basis of religious, political, philosophical, or any other content of speech to be addressed at such meetings. In implementing the limited open forum policy, the following guidelines shall apply:

1. Rights conferred by the Equal Access Act apply to students only, therefore activities and meetings shall be student initiated and voluntary.
2. School authorities or district employees shall not sponsor, promote, lead, or participate in such meetings.
3. No non-school person shall direct, conduct, or control activities of student groups meeting within the limited public forum. However, non-school persons may attend, so long as it is not on a regular basis and, provided they do not direct, conduct or control the meeting.
4. For insurance purposes, appropriate school employees as designated by the principal shall be available on campus while meetings are in session.
5. No school agent or employee shall be compelled to attend if the content of the speech at the meeting is contrary to the beliefs of the agent or employee.
6. The meeting shall not, in any way, interfere with the orderly conduct of regular instructional activities of the school.
7. Groups of students shall not be required to have a specified numerical size.
8. Meetings shall not abridge the rights of any individual or be otherwise unlawful.
9. Groups of students meeting pursuant to the limited open forum provisions shall not use the name of a school to identify themselves.
10. There shall be no activity by school agents/employees to influence the form or content of any prayer or other religious/political activity.
11. Meetings shall be scheduled during the lunch period, prior to beginning of classroom instruction or immediately following the end of classroom instruction.
12. Students shall leave the classroom or other facilities used for such meetings in a clean, orderly and secure condition. The Superintendent or designee may deny the use of facilities to any group that he/she believes will materially disrupt the school program or threaten the health and safety of students and staff.

**RESPONSIBILITIES**

1. STUDENTS
  - a) Any student wishing to create an ASB-sponsored student group shall first request authorization from the principal or designee. The group shall provide the principal or designee with the following information:
    - Name of the organization and names of student contacts
    - A statement of the organization's purposes, objectives, and activities
    - A copy of the proposed bylaws of the student group, including a description of how officers will be selected, as well as the bylaws of any off-campus organization with

- which the group may be affiliated
  - The name of the proposed faculty advisor, if any
  - The proposed dates, times, and location of meetings
  - Any special equipment to be used
  - A description of the qualifications for membership, if any
  - If a curriculum-related group, a statement of the relation of the club to the curriculum and/or instructional program
- b) In planning and conducting student-initiated meetings, students must be fully aware of all conditions/constraints of the limited open forum policy and ensure they are met.
2. PRINCIPAL AND HIS/HER DESIGNEE:
- a) Designate rooms available for limited open forum use.
  - b) Establish day and time restrictions.
  - c) Assist in preparation of and carefully review contents of the application.
  - d) Allow requesting students to meet, providing all conditions enumerated in this regulation are met.
  - e) Assign space on first-come-first-served basis.
  - f) Ensure a staff member is responsible during the meeting.
  - g) Ensure conditions regarding conduct of the meeting are met.
  - h) Ensure meeting room was left in a clean, secure condition.
  - i) The principal or designee may establish school rules governing the meetings of curriculum-related groups, such as attendance or grade requirements. Such rules may vary depending on the group, such as whether or not academic credit is given for participation in the group.
3. STAFF ADVISER:
- a) For any curriculum-related student group, the staff adviser shall provide guidance and teaching to students to ensure that the group's activities are aligned to the district's goals and objectives and shall provide supervision and leadership of the group. The principal shall have final authority in determining the assignment and role of the staff adviser.
  - b) For noncurriculum-related student groups, a staff adviser may be assigned voluntarily to observe meetings for purposes of maintaining order and protecting student safety. Staff advisers and other school employees shall not promote, lead, or participate in the meetings
  - c) A school employee may refuse to attend a meeting of a student group if the content of the speech at the meeting is contrary to the employee's beliefs.

## DEFINITIONS

### 1. CURRICULUM RELATED CLUBS

Clubs in this category met the definition of the U.S. Supreme Court as "curriculum related" and are sponsored by and are a part of the schools total educational program. Clubs that meet this definition must have constitutional bylaws approved by the associated student body government and a sponsor who is a member of the faculty.

**2. NON-CURRICULUM RELATED CLUBS, GROUPS OR ACTIVITIES**

- a) Recreation, special interest, and community service groups, i.e., chess club, bike club, interact, etc.
- b) Religious, political, or philosophical advocacy groups.

Student initiated groups in this category have the right to meet on campus according to guidelines spelled out in the limited open forum policy. These groups are not school regulated except to the extent that the district has the right and responsibility to control within the parameters of freedom of speech and expression what occurs on campus.

The district is not responsible for the point of view or the activities of these groups off campus. Groups meeting under this heading may not have a faculty sponsor. Faculty members may attend the meetings for purposes of assuring proper order, but may not direct or control the proceedings. Students participating in group meetings under this heading will be guided by the Student's Rights policy and are subject to district guidelines regarding student discipline.

**3. SPONSORSHIP**

The term "sponsorship" includes the act of promotion, leading, or participating in a meeting. The assignment of a teacher, administrator, or other school employee to a meeting for custodial purposes does not constitute sponsorship of the meeting.

**4. NON-INSTRUCTIONAL TIME**

The term "non-instructional time" means time set aside by the school before actual classroom instruction begins or after actual classroom instruction ends. The lunch period is considered to be non-instructional time.

**HAZING**

Any student who engages in hazing may be subject to discipline including, but not limited to, suspension or expulsion. Hazing means a method of initiation or pre-initiation into a student organization or body, whether or not the organization or body is officially recognized by the district, which is likely to cause serious bodily injury or personal degradation or disgrace resulting in physical or mental harm to a former, current, or prospective student.