

# POLICY GUIDE

STUDENTS

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Equal Access of Student Organizations

Feb 24

[See POLICY ALERT No. 232]

## 5842 EQUAL ACCESS OF STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS

The Board of Education will permit the use of school facilities by student-initiated organizations for non-curricular student activities. A student-initiated organization, regardless of the size of the group, will not be denied an opportunity to meet and use school facilities on the basis of **any of the protected categories listed at N.J.A.C. 6A:7-1.1(a) or the religion**, political, philosophical, or other content of the speech at their meeting.

An application for permission to meet on school premises shall be made to the **Principal or designee** \_\_\_\_\_, who shall grant permission provided **it is** that he/she determined that:

1. The activity has been initiated by students;
2. Attendance at the meeting is voluntary;
3. ~~No agent or employee of the district will promote, lead, or participate in the meeting;~~
34. The meeting is for a lawful purpose;
45. The meeting does not materially and substantially interfere with the orderly conduct of instructional activities in the school;
56. Nonschool persons do not direct, conduct, control, or regularly attend the activity; and
67. The activity is adequately supervised by appropriately certified school district staff.

A student-initiated group granted permission to meet on school premises shall be subject to the same rules and regulations that govern the meetings of student



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organizations sponsored by this Board, except as provided by this Policy.

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Participation in a student-initiated meeting must be available to all students who wish to attend and cannot be denied on the basis of **any of the protected categories listed at N.J.A.C. 6A:7-1.1(a)** ~~a student's race, color, creed, religion, national origin, ancestry, age, marital status, affectational or sexual orientation or sex, social or economic status, or disability~~. The Board will not permit the organization of a fraternity, sorority, or secret society **in accordance with N.J.S.A. 18A:42-5 and 18A:42-6**. ~~A student-initiated meeting may be attended by no more than \_\_\_\_\_ outside resource person(s).~~

Access to school facilities by student organizations will be provided within the governing principles of the First Amendment of the Constitution of the United States.

**School district staff involvement in student organizations shall be in accordance with the governing principles of the First Amendment of the Constitution of the United States.**

An appropriately certified staff member shall be assigned to attend a student-initiated meeting in a custodial capacity and shall not participate in the activity while serving in this custodial capacity. No teaching staff member shall be **required** ~~compelled~~ to attend a student-initiated meeting if the content of the speech at the meeting is contrary to his/her beliefs.

The ~~Building~~ Principal **or designee** may take such actions as may be necessary to maintain order and discipline on school premises and to protect the safety and well-being of students and staff members.

20 U.S.C.A. 1701 et seq.

United State Department of Education – Guidance on Constitutionally Protected Prayer in Public Elementary and Secondary Schools

**N.J.A.C. 6A:7-1.1; 6A:7-1.3**



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Adopted:

