



IGDA - SECONDARY SCHOOL STUDENT ACTIVITIES AND ORGANIZATIONS

It is the policy of Poudre School District to encourage the formation of and active participation in student activities and organizations at the District's secondary schools, and to permit such organizations to meet on school premises as provided below. Student organizations may be school-sponsored or student-initiated and led. This policy: (a) shall not be construed to require the District or any of its schools to sponsor any particular activity or organization; (b) shall not be construed to limit the District's discretion to allocate its resources among school-sponsored activities and organizations in a manner that it believes is in the best interest of the District and its schools, students and staff; and (c) shall not be construed to otherwise limit the District's discretion to allocate its resources to further the District's educational mission.

SCHOOL-SPONSORED ACTIVITIES AND ORGANIZATIONS

School-sponsored activities and organizations for students may be established at the discretion of the District. These activities and organizations are considered part of the school program and include but are not limited to school yearbook, school newspaper, choir, band, forensics, drama, athletics, intramurals and other secondary school activities and organizations for which a District employee is responsible. The principal of each secondary school shall maintain an up-to-date list of all school-sponsored activities and organizations at the school.

School-sponsored student activities and organizations may be established by the school principal, subject to approval by the superintendent or his/her designee. In addition, school employees may apply in writing to the principal for student activities and organizations to be sponsored by the school. The principal's decision regarding such applications is subject to approval by the superintendent or his/her designee.

If an activity or organization is approved for school-sponsored status, one or more District employees shall be assigned to supervise, advise, facilitate, coach and/or instruct the activity or organization.

Membership in school-sponsored activities and organizations shall be voluntary and shall be open to but limited to students currently enrolled at the sponsoring secondary school, unless otherwise required by law. Such activities and organizations may establish academic qualifications for membership where necessarily related to the purposes of the activity or organization. No student shall be denied membership on account of his or her race, color, national origin, religion, ancestry, sex, sexual orientation or disability (subject to the terms and limitations of the Americans with Disabilities Act and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973). Qualifications based on sex may be imposed only where necessary to preserve the health, safety or welfare

of students, or where sex is a bona fide and integral qualification for the activities of the activity or organization.

The principal shall determine whether and to what extent each school-sponsored activity and organization shall receive school resources beyond a space for meeting, and whether additional school facilities, equipment and materials will be made available for use by each such activity and organization. The principal's determination in this regard is subject to approval by the superintendent or his/her designee. The District retains the discretion to allocate District resources between and among curricular offerings and school-sponsored activities and organizations in a manner that it believes is in the best interest of the District and its schools, students and staff.

STUDENT-INITIATED AND LED ORGANIZATIONS

Secondary school students shall be permitted to establish student-initiated and led organizations at their school upon the prior written approval of the school's principal and the superintendent's designee. Such approval shall be conditioned on one or more students submitting a written application on a District-approved form and complying with all governing laws, school discipline rules, and the terms of this policy. The principal of each school shall maintain an up-to-date list of all approved student-initiated and led organizations at the school.

Neither the District nor any of its secondary schools shall deny equal access to school facilities for meetings of approved student-initiated and led organizations, or otherwise discriminate against such organizations or their student members, on the basis of the religious, political, philosophical or other content of the speech of such organizations.

Membership in approved student-initiated and led organizations shall be voluntary and student initiated, and shall be open to but limited to students currently enrolled at the secondary school.

Approved student-initiated and led organizations may conduct meetings on school premises at locations designated by the principal, but only during non-instructional time. "Non-instructional time" means time designated by the principal before actual classroom instruction begins or after actual classroom instruction ends. The period of time when lunch periods overlap with instructional periods is considered to be instructional time. The principal of each secondary school shall develop rules concerning the scheduling of times and facilities that are available for such meetings.

The meetings of approved student-initiated and led organizations on school premises shall not materially and substantially interfere with the orderly conduct of educational activities at the school and shall not be directed, conducted, controlled or regularly attended by nonschool persons. A school employee shall serve as a monitor for purposes of general supervision at such meetings, and may be present at religious meetings only in a nonparticipatory capacity.

Each approved student-initiated and led organization may post information about the organization and notices of its meetings on the school's website and on bulletin boards and/or wall space designated by the principal. Postings on designated bulletin boards and wall space shall be on District-approved forms. Notices of meetings may also be included in the daily announcements over the school's public address system.

Approved student-initiated and led organizations shall be included in school yearbooks, directories, calendars and other school publications on the same basis as other noncurriculum-related student groups at the school.

Approved student-initiated and led organizations shall be responsible for payment of all out-of-pocket costs related to their meetings and activities. Neither the school nor the District shall make or have any involvement in such payments, maintain PSA or other accounts for such organizations, or have any involvement in fundraising activities conducted by such organizations.

Approved student-initiated and led organizations shall not be deemed to be sponsored or endorsed by the District or any school in the District. The fact that such organizations are permitted to conduct meetings on school premises and to access school facilities under this policy shall not constitute an expression of District or school support for the purposes of such organizations or the views expressed at any of their meetings.

Student-initiated and led organizations may distribute notices and flyers, conduct fundraising activities and engage in other communications as authorized in accordance with governing law and District policies/regulations. In so doing, such organizations may identify themselves as students of their respective schools but may not represent that they are sponsored, supervised or controlled by the District or their respective schools.

Student-initiated and led organizations shall not engage in any activity that is contrary to law, District policies/regulations or school rules; that disrupts or clearly threatens to disrupt the orderly operation of the District or school; or that would adversely affect the health, safety or welfare of any student or District employee. Failure to comply with these provisions shall be grounds for revocation of the right to continue meeting under this policy.

Nothing in this policy shall be construed to require the District to expend public funds beyond the incidental cost of providing space for meetings of approved student-initiated and led organizations. To the extent that school resources are available, they shall be available on a basis that does not unlawfully discriminate against any such organization on the basis of the content of the speech of the meeting.

Nothing in this policy shall be construed to authorize any school official to influence the form or content of any prayer or religious activity, to require any person to participate in prayer or religious activity, to compel any school employee to attend any meeting if the

meeting is contrary to the beliefs of the employee, or to sanction meetings that are otherwise unlawful.

Approved student-initiated and led organizations must re-apply for continuing status each school year by written application submitted to the principal and the superintendent's designee on District-approved forms.

Adopted by Board: October 27, 2003
Revised by Superintendent: March 21, 2016

LEGAL REFS:

Equal Access Act, 20 U.S.C. 4071-4074

C.R.S. 22-1-117

C.R.S. 22-1-118

CROSS REF:

KF, Use of District Facilities