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Policy No. 2153
Instruction

NONCURRICULUM-RELATED STUDENT GROUPS

The Board recognizes the Equal Access Act that requires a secondary school to permit student groups to conduct noncurriculum-related meetings before or after school and during a school-scheduled lunch period, or during noninstructional time subject to the approval of the principal. Such approval shall be granted provided that activities of the group are not disruptive to school operations and the members of the group comply with the rules established by the Superintendent and school principals. The Board authorizes the Superintendent to develop administrative procedures to create or maintain this “limited open forum.”

The principal shall approve the noncurriculum-related student meeting or activity provided that:

1. The meeting shall be voluntary and initiated by students.
2. The school or its staff shall not be a sponsor of the group.
3. The meeting shall not materially and substantially interfere with the orderly operation of the school.
4. Students shall be responsible for the direction, control and conduct of the meeting.
5. Students shall not be required to participate in any religious activity.
6. The use of public funds for other than incidental and/or monitoring costs shall not be permitted. Funds acquired by non-curriculum related student groups shall be held in an associated student body account which shall be accessible by that student group.
7. Meetings will be limited to thirty (30) minutes before the beginning of the instructional day, and thirty (30) minutes after the end of the instructional day, and during the school's scheduled lunch period.
8. A staff member shall not be compelled to attend when the meeting is contrary to his/her belief.
9. The constitutional rights of all persons shall be respected.

The principal shall be responsible for the assignment of a room and for the approval and/or assignment of a staff member to monitor the meeting.

Cross References: 2150P - Procedure - Co-Curricular Program

Legal References: 20 U.S.C. 4071-4074 Equal Access Act
Wash. Const. Art. I, § 11
Wash. Const. Art. IX, § 4

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