

SCHOOL-CONNECTED ORGANIZATIONS

The Somerville Board of Education will encourage the work of a general, voluntary, school-connected organization of parents/ guardians, school staff and friends of the school in each school. Such organizations may not establish educational policy, participate in the administration of the school, or authorize management and direction of school affairs.

Such organizations shall have as their objectives the promotion of student welfare; the development of close relationships between the home and the school; and the development between educators and the public of such united efforts as will secure for every student in the schools the best kind of educational program possible.

Organizations shall not use the district's name in their titles without the board's express consent. Such permission to use the district's name does not constitute permission to act as the district's representative.

The board shall make it a practice not to interfere in the internal workings of such groups.

Permission to hold regular meetings of such organizations in school facilities will be extended by the board of education for a particular school year, in accordance with policy #1330.

The school principal or another professional staff member designated by the principal may serve as adviser to the general parent/teacher organization. All members of the professional staff shall be encouraged to join the organization and to participate in its activities.

Booster Clubs

A booster club is an organization that is formed to support (e.g. coordinate events, raise money, etc.) a associated school club, sports team, or organization.

The board recognizes that booster clubs can support and benefit school activities, clubs and teams. While booster clubs operate independently and are therefore outside district scrutiny and State fiscal accountability requirements for schools, their activities reflect on the district. The following guidelines shall be implemented for the operation of booster clubs in order to ensure that their activities are aligned with district goals and objectives.

A booster club that is organized for the purpose of endorsing and supporting a school sponsored activity shall:

- A. Be incorporated as a nonprofit organization;
- B. Have the approval of the building principal before conducting activities or raising funds on behalf of the school;
- C. Be accountable for all funds raised through the conduct of school related activities;
- D. Utilize all funds raised through the conduct of school related activities for the benefit of school programs;
- E. Adhere to the policies of the board of education, and in particular 1140 Distribution of Materials by

SCHOOL-CONNECTED ORGANIZATIONS (continued)

Students and Staff, 1314 Fundraising by Outside Organizations, and 3280 Gifts, Grants and Bequests;

- F. Have board approval and parent/guardian written permission before taking any group of students on a trip; and
- G. Obtain the approval of the superintendent before raising funds on behalf of the district.

Employees of the board shall not collect or maintain possession of any funds collected through booster club activities. The board is not responsible for the fundraising activities of booster clubs or for any of the funds raised by the booster club.

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Key Words

School-connected Organizations, Booster Clubs, Parent-Teacher Organizations, PTA, PTO

Legal References: N.J.S.A. 18A:11-1 General mandatory powers and duties
N.J.S.A. 18A:54-20 Powers of board (county vocational schools)

Possible

Cross References: *1000/1010 Concepts and roles in community relations; goals and objectives
 *1100 Communicating with the public
 1210 Community organizations
 *1330 Use of school facilities
 *3280 Gifts, grants and bequests
 4136 Meetings/committees
 *5020 Role of parents/guardians
 *5136 Fund-raising activities
 *6010 Goals and objectives

*Indicates policy is included in the Critical Policy Reference Manual.