

	ABERDEEN SCHOOL DISTRICT	NEPN Code: JJAB
	POLICIES AND REGULATIONS	

EQUAL ACCESS – LIMITED OPEN FORUM

The School Board regards student clubs and organizations as an important part of the education and development of students. The Equal Access Act ("EAA") and the Boy Scouts of America Equal Access Act ensures that noncurricular student groups are afforded the same access to public secondary school facilities as other, similarly situated student groups. No student club shall be denied equal access and a fair opportunity to organize and to meet on school premises during designated non-instructional time on the basis of the religious, political, philosophical, or other content of speech at the meetings of such clubs. As used in this policy:

1. A "sponsored club" shall mean a club which is curriculum related and directly under the sponsorship, direction, and control of the school. These clubs serve as an extension of the general school curriculum and their activities bear a clear relationship to the general curriculum.
2. A "non-sponsored club" shall mean any other student-initiated club which is not under the sponsorship, direction, or control of the school, except as provided in this policy. The fact that such clubs are permitted to conduct meetings under this policy shall not constitute an expression of District support for the purposes of such clubs or the content of any meetings thereof.

Sponsored clubs shall be directed by a member of the faculty or administration of the school and be curriculum related. The school shall not sponsor clubs which advocate particular religious or political beliefs or beliefs which tend to create adversarial situations among students in the school or beliefs which are subversive.

Non-sponsored clubs shall have an approved monitor. The assignment of a monitor to a meeting for custodial purposes does not constitute sponsorship of the meeting. The school and the Aberdeen School District shall not be identified or associated with the goals, objectives, activities, beliefs, or opinions of any non-sponsored club or its members.

Non-sponsored meetings pursuant to this Policy:

1. Shall be voluntary and student initiated;
2. Shall not be sponsored by the District or its agents or employees;
3. Will have employees or agents of the District present at such meetings only in a non-participatory capacity;
4. Shall not materially and substantially interfere with the orderly conduct of educational activities within the school building; and
5. Will not be directed or controlled by non-school persons.

Nothing in this Policy shall be construed to authorize the District:

1. To influence the form or content of any prayer or other religious activity;
2. To require any person to participate in prayer or other religious activities;
3. To expend public funds beyond the incidental cost of providing the space for student-initiated meetings;
4. To compel any school agent or employee to attend a non-sponsored meeting if the content of the speech at the meeting is contrary to the beliefs of the agent or employee;
5. To sanction meetings that are otherwise unlawful;
6. To limit the rights of groups of students which are not of a specifying numerical size; or
7. To abridge the constitutional rights of any person.

Nothing in this Policy shall be construed to limit the authority of the District, its agents or employees, to maintain order and discipline on school premises, to protect the well being of students and faculty, and to assure that attendance of students at meetings is voluntary.

Meetings shall not be held in student common public areas such as halls or lunchrooms. Rooms to be used and times for meetings pursuant to this Policy shall be designated by the Building Principal on a first-come-first-serve basis.

Students attending meetings in District facilities pursuant to this Policy are responsible for any damage to District property occurring during such meeting.

Except as provided in this Policy and Policy KF (Community Use of Schools), non-curriculum related student groups may not use District facilities.

DISTRICT POLICY REFERENCE:

ECAB, ECAB-R Student/Employee Access
KHC Distribution & Posting of Promotional Materials
KF Community Use of Buildings, Grounds, and Properties

LEGAL REFERENCES:

Equal Access Act 20 USC Section 4071-4074
Boy Scouts of America Equal Access Act 20 USC Section 7905

ADOPTED: February 10, 1994
REVISED: July 24, 2006
REVISED: February 27, 2012
REVIEWED: November 28, 2016
REVISED: January 23, 2023