4.12—STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS/EQUAL ACCESS

Non-curriculum-related school student organizations wishing to conduct meetings on school premises during non-instructional time shall not be denied equal access on the basis of the religious, political, philosophical, or other content of the speech at such meetings. Such meetings must meet the following criteria.

1.   The meeting is to be voluntary and student initiated;
2.   There is no sponsorship of the meeting by the school, the government, or its agents or employees;
3.   The meeting must occur during non-instructional time;
4.   Employees or agents of the school are present at religious meetings only in a non-participatory capacity;
5.   The meeting does not materially and substantially interfere with the orderly conduct of educational activities within the school; and
6.   Non-school persons may not direct, conduct, control, or regularly attend activities of student groups.

All meetings held on school premises must be scheduled and approved by the principal. The school, its agents, and employees retain the authority to maintain order and discipline, to protect the well-being of students and faculty, and to assure that attendance of students at meetings is voluntary.

Fraternities, sororities, and secret societies are forbidden in the District's schools. Membership to student organizations shall not be by a vote of the organization's members, nor be restricted by the student's race, religion, sex, national origin, or other arbitrary criteria. Hazing, as defined by law, is forbidden in connection with initiation into, or affiliation with, any student organization, extracurricular activity or sport program. Students who are convicted of participation in hazing or the failure to report hazing shall be expelled.

Legal References: A.C.A. § 6-5-201 et seq.
                       A.C.A. § 6-10-132
                       A.C.A. § 6-18-601 et seq.
                       A.C.A. § 6-21-201 et seq.
                       20 U.S.C. 4071 Equal Access Act
                       Board of Education of the Westside Community Schools v. Mergens, 496 U.S. 226 (1990)

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