

Student-Initiated Group Use of Facilities

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Pursuant to the Equal Access Act, Spectrum High School will provide an opportunity for student-initiated, non-curricular groups to conduct meetings or activities on district property to the same extent that the district allows other non-curriculum-related student groups to meet on school premises during non-instructional time. Student-initiated groups will not be denied access on the basis of religious, political, or other content of speech at such meetings (see exceptions in IIC.). School administration may create administrative procedures to govern the use of school facilities by student-initiated non-curricular groups, for the purpose of this policy.

- I. Criteria for using school facilities by a student-initiated non-curricular meeting
 - A. Students who are enrolled at Spectrum High School may form or become a part of a student group.
 - B. In order to be recognized as a formal student organization, the group must have established bylaws, elected officers, and have an adult school staff member as advisor. The student membership in an organization shall be limited to students who are enrolled and in attendance at Spectrum High School. The school administrator shall consider requests by all student groups for recognition as a formal student organization, and shall make a determination based on whether the group has met the following requirements:
 1. The student-initiated group must be initiated by a high school student (9th-12th grades).
 2. Attendance is limited to high school students only (9th-12th grades).
 3. The meetings must be held during non-instructional times.
 4. Membership and meeting(s) must be voluntary and student-initiated. No student shall be in any way coerced to participate in an activity.
 5. Employees of the district or other adults may not sponsor, promote, or lead student-initiated groups or meetings. However, a teacher, administrator, or other school employee may volunteer their time to monitor facility use and student conduct. The school staff member who wishes to monitor a particular group shall contact the school administrator to volunteer their services.
 6. Employees and agents of the school are to be present solely in a non-participatory capacity at any student-initiated religious or political activity held at school and will strictly observe a policy of official neutrality regarding religious or political activity.
 7. The meeting may not materially and substantially interfere with the orderly conduct of educational activities within the school.
 8. Non-staff members may not direct, control, or regularly attend meetings of formal student organizations.
 - C. Informal groups may also use the facilities, but must comply with #1-7 (above). They may have either a staff member or parent monitor the informal group. If access to facilities or concern related to monitoring occur, they may be asked to discontinue.

II. Requesting Use of Facilities

- A. Student organizations, which have been officially recognized, may request the use of school facilities. Requests shall be submitted to the Facility Coordinator a minimum of two weeks in advance of the building use. Notification of all student organization meeting times and dates will be made available.
- B. Use of school facilities by student organizations shall be limited to two hours immediately following daily dismissal time for students or 45 minutes before the school day begins.
- C. Use of school facilities by student organizations shall not be regulated on the basis of the content of meetings, except in the following circumstances (list not all inclusive):
 - 1. Content is of a violent or sexual nature (or advocating either).
 - 2. It interferes with the educational process, or otherwise violates school rules and regulations.
 - 3. It is inconsistent with the educational goals, school mission, and/or cultural interests of the school community or community as a whole.
 - 4. It is likely to cause damage to the facilities or endanger individuals
- D. Requests for use of school facilities by student-led groups for evening activities shall be made in accordance with school district policies related to rental of school facilities for non-school use. Requests shall be submitted to the administrator (who will forward the information to the Facilities Coordinator). Except for incidental building costs, no public funds will be expended for student-initiated non-curriculum-related groups.

III. Student Conduct at Meetings

Students attending student-initiated groups or activities must follow all school rules and procedures governing student conduct. The school reserves the right to maintain order and discipline, as well as to protect the safety and well being of students and employees.

IV. Access to Communication Channels

Non-curriculum-related, student-initiated groups (formal or informal) at the secondary school level shall have the same access allowed to all other non-curriculum-related student groups to channels of communication for publicizing their meetings, including the public address system, designated bulletin boards, and the calendar of events. However, the school may uniformly state in these media that such organizations or their meetings are not sponsored by the school. Parents and students will be made aware of all recognized formal student organizations.

Note: The reader is encouraged to review administrative procedures and/or forms for related information in support of this policy.

In the event that policies adopted by the School are in conflict with then applicable Minnesota law, the provisions of the law will apply.