

STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS

Student organizations in the District will be encouraged when they meet the criteria of contributing to student self-esteem and performance and should operate within the framework of state statutes, district policies, and administrative procedures.

Each building Principal will develop general guidelines for the establishment and operation of student organizations within the particular school. Among other provisions, such guidelines will require the approval of the Principal prior to the formation of any club or organization in the school and the assignment of at least one faculty or designated adult advisor to each approved student organization. Within such guidelines will be provisions for a periodic review of all student organizations.

The formation of any student organization that may engage in activities of a controversial nature will require approval by the School Committee.

All student organizations will be required to open membership to all interested and/or eligible students. Disruptive groups, secret societies, and/or gangs will not receive recognition in any manner under this policy.

All forms of hazing in initiations will be prohibited in a student organization. No initiation will be held for a student organization that will bring criticism to the school system or be degrading to the student.

The faculty or designated adult advisor must attend every meeting of the student organization whether conducted on school premises or at another location.

Approval of Student Organizations

Principals will have discretion to approve student organizations or activities that are not raising/receiving funds or spending funds and which does not include the use of the student activity account (e.g. "clubs").

The School Committee must approve student organizations or activities that intend to raise, receive, or collect funds, and an authorized student activity account must be established.

Student Organizations - High School

In addition to the above requirements, all clubs or organizations at the high school level will relate to the subject matter covered by the curriculum. The Principal is responsible for determining that the purpose of a student organization is related to the curriculum. The Principal is authorized to deny requests by unauthorized student organization desiring to meet or form in a particular school, the Principal will inform the group of the reasons for the denial. The students and/or group may submit a written request to the appropriate District administrator for review of the Principal's decision.

Revised: May 8, 2018
 February 28, 2017

LEGAL REF.: 603 CMR 26.06

CROSS REF: JICF, Gang Activity
JICFA-E, Hazing
JJF, Student Activity Accounts