

STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS

Student organizations have an important place in the educational program because, when properly organized and operated, they:

1. Extend and reinforce the instructional program
2. Give students practice in democratic self-government
3. Build student morale and spirit of positive support for the school
4. Honor outstanding student achievement
5. Provide wholesome social and recreational activities

To guide the professional staff and students in organizations, the Governing Board sets forth the following policy guide:

1. **SCHOOL CLUBS AND SOCIETIES** will be recognized as authorized school organizations if they are organized at the school, sponsored by school personnel, composed completely of current student body members, hold the majority of their meetings at school, have a democratic plan for the selection of members, establish aims which are educational, of school interest or community interest and meet all those conditions hereinafter set forth for recognized school-sponsored organizations
2. **SECRET SOCIETIES:** Membership in secret fraternities, sororities, and clubs is prohibited throughout the School District. The Superintendent is authorized to develop procedures concerning disciplinary action to be taken for violation of this policy
3. **NON-SCHOOL CLUBS:** All other clubs of a non-secret nature, whose membership is composed for the most part of students from one school, that are sponsored by other than school personnel, that meet outside school hours at places other than at school, and whose aims are other than educational, of school interest, or community interest, are considered to be non-school clubs and beyond the jurisdiction of school authorities

However, should these groups (non-school groups) conduct activities on school property, at school-sponsored activities or as a carry-over into the school day or reflect on the reputation of the school, the Superintendent is authorized to develop procedures concerning disciplinary action to be taken

Activities that are contrary to the best interest of the school and reflect on the reputation of the school include the following:

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- a. Initiation and hazing. No student shall conspire to engage in hazing, participate in hazing, or commit any act that causes or is likely to cause bodily danger, physical harm, or personal degradation or disgrace resulting in physical or mental harm to any fellow student or other person. Persons violating this policy shall be subject to district discipline, misdemeanor penalties, and forfeiture of entitlements. This policy regarding hazing shall be included in each directory or catalog published by the District or an individual school (such as Student Handbooks etc. Such notice shall also include a statement that copies of Policy 6145.5, Organizations/Associations, may be obtained at the Office of the Superintendent and that Education Code Sections 32050, 32051, and 32052 may be examined at that office.

- b. Indulging in group functions that violate city laws or county ordinances

Non-school clubs may become recognized school-sponsored clubs by conforming to the criteria for school clubs and societies stated earlier

RELIGIOUS CLUB MEETINGS

A student religious club may not meet on public high school premises outside school hours when the club and its activities are devotional rather than academic and no payment for the use of school facilities is contemplated, according to the California Attorney General. (Ops. Cal. Atty. Gen. No. CV 74/71 (1976))

(cf. 5137 - Organizations)

Legal Reference: Education Code
32050-32052 Hazing laws
48930-48938 et seq. Student organizations

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