

Board Policy

Code No. 504.2

STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS

No school organization shall exist which is not approved by the Superintendent of Schools or the Superintendent's designee. The Superintendent or designee shall determine qualifications for student groups. Applications for organizing shall be relayed to the Superintendent or designee through the building principal.

Secondary school student-initiated, non-curriculum-related groups must request the use of school facilities on our district website at <https://bettendorf.k12.ia.us/community/facility-rental>. Approval or denial will be made by the principal or the principal's designee.

Approved groups may meet only during non-instructional times. Attendance is limited to students and participation shall be strictly voluntary and student initiated. Meetings shall not interfere with the orderly conduct of educational activity. Non-instructional time shall mean any time before the first period in the day when the students attend class or after the last period in the day that students attend class.

Student-initiated, non-curriculum-related groups will not use the school name, school mascot name, district name, or any name that might imply school or district sponsorship. The use of school equipment will be subject to Board policy.

Either certificated or classified employees will be assigned to monitor authorized meetings. An employee may be assigned to monitor more than one such meeting held concurrently if the principal determines that adequate order and discipline can be maintained to ensure that attendance of students at the meetings is voluntary. Employees shall not participate in any way in the meeting or assist in planning, criticizing, or encouraging attendance. Non-school persons cannot direct, conduct, control, or regularly attend activity of student groups.

In determining whether a group is curriculum related, the school principal or the principal's designee should be able to answer these questions affirmatively:

- Is the subject matter of the group actually taught in a regularly offered course?
- Will the subject matter of the group soon be taught in a regularly offered course?
- Does the subject matter of the group concern the body of courses as a whole?
- Is participation in the group required for a particular course?
- Does participation in the group result in academic credit?

As a means of determining whether a student's attendance at an approved meeting is voluntary, a school principal or the principal's designee may require parental consent for attendance at meetings of non-curriculum-related groups.

Failure to comply with board policy and/or guidelines shall result in disbanding the organization.

Legal Reference: [Westside Community Board of Education v Mergens](#), 496 U.S. 226 (1990).

Bender v. Williamsport Area Community School District, 741 F.2d 538 (3d Cir. 1984), vacated and remanded on other grounds, 475 U.S. 534 (1986).

[20 U.S.C. §§ 4071-4074](#).

[Iowa Code §§ 287; 297.9](#).

Cross Reference: 502 Student Rights and Responsibilities
 504 Student Activities

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