

STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS

Student organizations sponsored by the school 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 certified staff and students in organizations, the Board of Education sets forth the following policy guide:

1. The student council is the organization through which students may express their opinions, assist in the administration of the school, and participate in the management of school enterprises. The council shall promote leadership, initiative, and self-control among its members.
2. School clubs and societies will be recognized as authorized school organizations if they are organized by the school, sponsored by school personnel, composed completely of current student body members, hold 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. School-sponsored organizations shall be directed by a faculty adviser appointed by the principal.



STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS (continued)

3. 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.
4. Non-school clubs: All clubs not specifically authorized and organized by the school are considered to be non-school clubs and beyond the jurisdiction and responsibility of school authorities.

However, should these groups (non-school clubs) 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 which are contrary to the best interests of the school and reflect on the reputation of the school are forbidden, including:

- a. Initiation and hazing on school grounds or at school-sponsored events;
- 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.

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Legal References: N.J.S.A. 18A:42-5 Certain Student Organizations Declared Harmful
N.J.S.A. 18A:42-6 Organizations Forbidden in High Schools; Rules; Exceptions