

## STUDENT CLUBS & ACTIVITIES (SECONDARY)

### Policy

The school will maintain a student activity program appropriate to the maturity of students and as varied as staff and facilities permit. The program will be designed to offer for the greatest number of students worthwhile leisure time interests, wholesome recreational and social activity, and opportunities to develop skills in democratic and cooperative management for these activities. In accordance with the federal Equal Access Act, the Canaan School District will grant equal access to groups of students who wish to meet for religious, political, or philosophical purposes, if the school allows other types of non-curriculum related (non-sponsored) student groups to meet.

### Implementation

#### A. **Sponsored Activities (Closed Forum)**

Membership in school-sponsored student organizations is open to all students of the school without regard to race, religion (creed), color, national origin, marital status, sex, sexual orientation, or disability.

All school sponsored activities will be under the ultimate control of the School District and will comply with all policies and procedures of the school.

#### 1. **Relation to Curriculum**

The controlling factor in deciding whether an activity will be sponsored by the school will be whether that activity is directly related to the school's curriculum. No activity which is not directly related to the curriculum or educational mission of the school will receive sponsorship, regardless of whether it meets the other criteria for sponsorship.

Activities or clubs which meet at least one of the following criteria will be considered curriculum related.

- A. The subject matter of the student group or club is actually taught or will be taught in a regularly scheduled course.
- B. The subject matter of the group or club is such that it concerns the body of courses as a whole.
- C. Participation in the group is required for a particular course.
- D. Participation in the group results in academic credit.

#### 2. **Requests for Sponsorship**

The Board will approve new requests for activity sponsorship based on the following considerations.

- A. The potential of the activity to help participating students meet the goals of the school's curriculum.
- B. The level of student interest in the activity;
- C. The fiscal ramifications of sponsorship;
- D. The availability of qualified personnel to supervise the activity;

- E. The impact of adding or eliminating the activity on the balance of types of activities available in the total activity program; and
- F. The recommendation of the Superintendent.

**3. Participation in Sponsored Activities**

The following criteria for participation in school sponsored activities are intended to set standards for academic eligibility.

- A. Students should have passing grades in all courses taken during the previous marking period.
- B. Students should be in good disciplinary standing as determined by the Principal.
- C. Students should be in regular attendance and should be in attendance on the day of the activity unless excused by the Principal.

**B. Non-Sponsored Activities (Limited Open Forum)**

Non-sponsored activities will comply with all policies and procedures of the school.

- I. Student groups, clubs or activities not related to the goals of the school's curriculum shall not receive school sponsorship. A fair opportunity will be provided to non-sponsored student groups wishing to conduct meetings on school premises during non-instructional time. The Principal may approve use of the facilities by non-sponsored student groups provided that:
  - A. any such meeting is voluntary and student initiated;
  - B. there is no sponsorship of the meeting by the school, the government, or its agents or employees;
  - C. employees or agents of the school or any governmental entity are present at religious meetings only in non-participatory capacities;
  - D. the meeting does not materially and substantially interfere with the orderly conduct of educational activities within the school; and
  - E. non-school persons do not direct, conduct, control or regularly attend activities of student groups.
  
- I. Non-sponsored student clubs and activities will have the same access as other non-sponsored groups to meeting space and listing in the school newspapers, calendars or bulletin boards. However, listings and notices referring to non-sponsored clubs or activities will include a disclaimer of school sponsorship or endorsement. Any faculty representatives to non-sponsored religious or political clubs must restrict their involvement in such clubs to keeping order.

Date Warned: 12 August 2002  
Date Adopted: 26 August 2002  
Legal Reference(s): 20 U.S.C. §§4071 et seq. (Federal Equal Access Act)  
Cross Reference: Community Use of School Facilities (H3)  
Admission of Resident Students (F13)  
Admission of Non-Resident Tuition Students (F14)  
Participation of Home Study Students in School Programs and Activities (F23)