

REGULATION

ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Related Entries: JCL, JCK

Responsible Office: OFFICE OF SCHOOL PERFORMANCE, DIVISION OF STUDENT SUPPORT SERVICES

STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS

A. PURPOSE

To provide guidance regarding student organizations that desire to conduct meetings or activities in Anne Arundel County Public Schools (AACPS).

B. BACKGROUND

Student organizations can provide an enriching and beneficial experience for students. However, guidance is needed regarding the formation and meetings of such organizations.

C. PROCEDURES

1. Student organizations that desire to conduct activities in public school buildings or on public school grounds shall be permitted to conduct these activities only if authorized to do so and shall be subject to the supervision of the administration and faculty of the school. Student organizations meeting in schools must have a non-custodian staff member present in the school facility during their meetings.
2. Any group of students who desire to form an organization in the school shall submit a written list of objectives to the school principal or the principal's designee for approval.
3. The principal or the principal's designee may approve a student organization's use of a facility provided that:
 - a. The meetings are voluntary and student initiated. The principal or the principal's designee must be assured that students are the ones promoting the activities and they are participating on their own volition.
 - b. Only students enrolled in the school may request the meetings. Principals assign personnel to the meetings in a supervisory non-influential capacity only. This assignment of personnel does not constitute sponsorship by the school system.

4. The presence of school or school systems authorities, employees, or personnel at any religious student organization meeting shall be non-participatory in nature and does not constitute sponsorship. The presence of school authorities at such meetings shall be for the purpose of observation or supervision.
5. Any secret, exclusive, or self-perpetuating organization which seeks to organize and advance itself by taking in members from among the students enrolled in AACPS, upon the basis of decision of the membership of the organization, rather than from the free choice of any students in the school who are qualified to fill the special aims of the organization, are prohibited from conducting activities in AACPS buildings and on AACPS property.
6. Each school principal or the principal's designee shall determine the allowable time that is available for approved student organizations to meet.
7. Student organization meetings may not interfere with the conduct of regular instructional activities of the school. The education of the students is the prime responsibility of the school, any other activities are secondary. The school may deny facilities to student organizations on the basis that the activities or meetings interfere with the instructional program.
8. Student organization meetings are not controlled, conducted, or directed by persons or groups not affiliated with the school. Visitors to student organization meetings must be approved by the principal or the principal's designee. Approval for visitors' attendance must be obtained prior to the meeting. Visitors may not attend student meetings on a regular basis.
9. Student organization meetings are open to all students without regard to actual or perceived race, ethnicity, color, religion, national origin, sex, age, marital status, sexual orientation, genetic information, gender identity, gender expression, disability, or homeless status.
10. Students may form organizations for promoting the views of any partisan political organization which is authorized by Maryland Education Law to use public school facilities for political campaigns in accord with Policy JCK – Student Political Activity.

Regulation History: Developed by Superintendent 01/18/17
Reviewed by Board of Education 01/18/17
Issued 01/18/17; Revised 07/12/23

Note Previous Regulation History: None

Legal References: 20 U.S.C. §4071, Section 7-108 of the Education Article, Code of Maryland Regulations 13A.08.01.09