

Student Organizations: Sponsorship and Equal Access for Limited Student Forums	F.16
<i>Adopted: July 23, 2013 Revised: September 9, 2014</i>	

The Board of Education of the Hilldale School District is committed to the proposition that student participation in student activities and organizations can advance educational goals and otherwise benefit students and that District policies should further students' opportunities for participation. In allowing and furthering student activities and organizations, the Board is mindful of the dictates of the United States Constitution and the federal Equal Access Act. This policy is adopted to implement these goals.

School-Sponsored Student Organizations

1. The District may sponsor student organizations that the Board determines are in furtherance of and consistent with the educational objectives of the District and directly related to the District's curriculum ("school-sponsored student organizations").
2. An organization shall be considered to be directly related to the District's curriculum if it is: (1) an extension, expansion, or application of material taught in a class or course **or** (2) part of or an adjunct to school sponsored student government, carrying out special projects or responsibilities.
3. School-sponsored student organizations must have a faculty sponsor, whose teaching field, education, background or other expertise is reasonably related to the purpose and goals of the group, and who shall receive extra-duty compensation.
4. Application for District sponsorship shall be made by the proposed faculty sponsor and at least 3 students who intend to participate in the organization. Each proposed student organization will submit its membership requirements, organizational structure and provisions of a constitution or other document setting out organizational purpose and structure, subject to approval by the Superintendent.
5. After the proposed organization and its constitution have received preliminary approval from the Superintendent, the Board shall review and approve or disapprove the organization for District sponsorship based on the standards set out in this policy and, if requested, on an opinion rendered by the District's legal counsel that the proposed organization meets the standards of this policy.

Independent Student-Organized Groups

6. The middle school and high school of this District shall make facilities available for meetings of independent student-organized groups (that is, student groups that are not officially sponsored by the District as stated in Sections 1-5 above) subject to the following provisions. It is the District's intent to create a limited open forum under the federal Equal Access Act for independent student-organized groups pursuant to this policy.

7. Meetings of independent student-organized groups may be held only during non-instructional time, including before or after school, during lunch break (but only those students on lunch break may attend) or other non-instructional time. No student may attend a meeting when he or she has a scheduled class or is required by school rules or schedules to be elsewhere.
8. All meetings must be student-initiated and open to all students in the school. All student attendance at independent student-organized group meetings must be voluntary.
9. No meeting may include any activity that is unlawful or that materially and substantially interferes with the orderly conduct of educational activities within the school.
10. An adult monitor, who may or may not be a school employee, may be present at all meetings. The monitor shall be present only in the capacity of monitor and not as a sponsor and may not participate in any form or fashion in the meeting. If the District requires that a school employee monitor the independent student-organized group the employee shall receive extra-duty compensation.
11. Independent student-organized groups may invite outside speakers to their meetings, but no non-school persons may direct, control, conduct, or regularly attend meetings.
12. If students wish to meet in independent student-organized groups under this policy, they must file a request to meet with the building principal that lists: 1) the name of the independent student-organized group, and 2) the name of one student who will serve as the contact between the group and school authorities. The principal shall approve a meeting if it meets the requirements of this policy and shall notify the student contact person of his or her approval or, if it does not meet the requirements of this policy, the reasons for disapproval, within two days of receipt of the request to meet. Once permitted to do so, an independent student-organized group may continue meeting, unless it subsequently violates this or any other school policy.
13. In assigning meeting rooms to student organizations, the school shall not arbitrarily discriminate between or among school-sponsored and independent organizations. However, in assigning meeting rooms the school may consider the number of persons expected to attend and the needs of the organization and of the District.
14. Meetings of independent student-organized groups may be announced by notices posted on bulletin boards in the school or via the intercom system. Such notices may contain only the name of the organization, the date, time and place of the meeting, and a brief identification of the subject of the meeting or a list of agenda items.
15. It is understood that participation in and the content and purposes of independent student-organized group meetings are neither approved nor disapproved by the District. The District is neutral as to the content of these meetings in that the District does not direct or control the student-organized group.

Notice Regarding Student Organizations and
Parental Right to Withhold Permission to Participate

16. The District shall provide annual notice to parents and guardians about school-sponsored student organizations and independent student-organized groups in the student handbook and on the District's website. The notice shall include a list of the names of the clubs or organizations and which are District sponsored and which are independent student-organized groups.
17. If school-sponsored student organizations and independent student-organized groups are created or formed after the annual notice is distributed, the District shall send supplemental notice through the District's website or by any other means it deems appropriate. Like the annual notice, the supplemental notice shall specify the names of the organizations.
18. Parents and guardians may notify the District that they are withholding permission for their student to join or participate in one or more school-sponsored student organizations and independent student-organized groups. However, parents and guardians may not withhold permission for student participation in school sponsored clubs and organizations that are necessary for a required course of instruction.
19. Parents and guardians are solely responsible for preventing their student from participating in a club or organization for which they have withheld their permission. Parents and guardians are also solely responsible for retrieving their student from attendance at a club or organization for which permission has been withheld.
20. Nothing in this policy prevents a club or organization from meeting when a student who is not authorized to participate is present.