

STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS, CO-CURRICULAR PROGRAMS AND EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

I. Generally

In accordance with Policy JB: *Nondiscrimination in Education*, students have the right to equitable access to programs, activities, and events including, but not limited to, acknowledgements, dances, assemblies, after-school programs, extracurricular activities, intramurals, non-competitive sports leagues and field trips. For any school program, event, or activity, including extra-curricular activities that are segregated by gender, ACPS allows students to participate in a manner consistent with their gender identity.

Interscholastic athletic participation regulated by the Virginia High School League (VHSL) or another organization, such as the Virginia Scholastic Rowing Association (VASRA), is operated in compliance with the policies and rules outlined by that organization.

II. Student Organizations: Secondary Schools

ACPS supports the organization and operation of student organizations in its secondary schools and permits such organizations to meet on school premises during non-instructional time.

A. Curriculum-Related Student Organizations

While public school facilities are devoted primarily to instructional programs and school-sponsored activities, curriculum-related student organizations:

- Are an extension of the regular school program ;
- Enhance the participants' educational experience;
- Supplement the course materials within the educational program of the schools; and
- Promote activities that bear a clear relationship to the regular curriculum.

The principal determines whether the organization meets the above criteria. The principal approves organizations that meet the above criteria and officially recognizes them as school-sponsored student organizations.

B. Noncurriculum-Related Student Groups

Secondary school students may also organize and conduct meetings of noncurriculum-related student groups to pursue activities outside of the school curriculum, subject to the provisions of this policy. Such groups may use school facilities provided that:

- The group's meetings are voluntary and student initiated;
- The group is not sponsored by the school, the government, or any government agent or employee;

- Agents or employees of the school or government are present at religious meetings only in a nonparticipatory capacity;
- Meetings do not materially and substantially interfere with the orderly conduct of educational activities at the school; and
- Nonschool persons do not direct, conduct, control, or regularly attend activities of the group, except that the faculty supervisor, appointed by the principal, attends all meetings.

Non-curriculum-related student organizations are not designated as school-sponsored or endorsed. The fact that such organizations may hold meetings under this policy does not constitute an expression of school division support for the purposes of such organizations or the content of any meetings thereof.

C. Meetings of Student Organizations

All student organizations may meet on school premises during non-instructional time as designated by the school principal. ACPS does not deny any student organization equal access to school facilities during designated meeting times on the basis of the religious, political, philosophical, or other content of the speech at the organization's meetings. ACPS does not extend any public funding or support to any non-curriculum-related student group, other than the opportunity to meet on school premises on an equal basis as other student organizations.

Each school principal develops procedures for scheduling meetings of student organizations and determining the times and places which are available for such meetings. Meeting times are limited to non-instructional time before or after regular classroom hours or during established activities periods. These guidelines are made available to all students. Student organizations wishing to conduct meetings under this policy may submit applications to the principal or designee for permission in accordance with Division procedures.

D. Faculty Supervision

The principal appoints one or more members of the school faculty to sponsor and supervise each curriculum-related student organization. Faculty sponsors participate in the supervision and direction of all activities of the organization and attend all meetings and activities.

Non-curriculum-related student organizations do not have a faculty sponsor. However, a member of the school's staff attends every meeting or activity of such organizations in a non-participatory capacity for purposes of general supervision. The organization is responsible for assuring the presence of a staff member for its meetings.

ACPS does not compel any school employee to attend a meeting of any student organization if the content of such meeting is contrary to the beliefs of that school employee. School employees present at any meeting of a non-curriculum-related student

organization that includes religious worship, prayer, or practice, or is identified as having a religious purpose, attends in a non-participatory capacity only.

III. Membership and Participation in Student Organizations and Activities

Membership in all student organizations shall be open to and limited to all students currently enrolled in the sponsoring school on a voluntary basis. Student organizations may establish academic qualifications for membership where necessarily related to the purposes of the organization. Student organizations and activities may not deny students membership on account of their race, creed, color, national origin, ancestry, ethnicity, disability, religion, political affiliation, sex, sexual orientation, gender, gender identity, gender expression, age, pregnancy, childbirth or related medical conditions, marital or parental status, genetic information or military status, except for participation in interscholastic athletic activities specifically regulated by outside organizations (noted in Section I of this policy).

IV. Compliance with Law and Policy

Student organizations may not engage in any activity which is contrary to law, Division policy or school rules; which disrupts or clearly threatens to disrupt the orderly operation of the school; or which would adversely affect the health, safety, or welfare of any students or staff members. Failure to comply with these provisions shall be grounds for disciplinary action.

Adopted: January 9, 1997
Amended: July 1, 2005
Amended: January 22, 2015
Amended: October 7, 2021

Legal Refs.: 20 USC § 4071.

Title IX, Education Amendments of 1972.

34 C.F.R. Parts 101 and 106.

Code of Virginia, 1950, as amended, § 22.1-23.3.

Cross Refs.: IGDAA Grade Average Requirement for Eligibility to Participate in Athletic and Co-Curricular Programs
IICA Field Trips
IICA-R Field Trip Procedures
JB Nondiscrimination in Education
JB-R/JFHA-R Procedures for Investigating Student Complaints of Discrimination, Harassment and Bullying
JFB Student Involvement in Decision Making
JFCB Sportsmanship, Ethics and Integrity
KF Distribution of Information/Materials

KF-R	Regulations for Distribution of Information/Materials in Schools
KG	Community Use of School Facilities
KG-R	Community Use of School Facilities Regulations and Application