

# PENN MANOR SCHOOL DISTRICT

ADMINISTRATIVE REGULATION

APPROVED: March 18, 2011

REVISED:

## 122-AR. STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS

The following administrative regulations govern the registration and management of student groups at the secondary level.

The Board will approve and recognize any group organized for a purpose not prohibited by Board policy or by law, if the group complies with all provisions of Board policy and administrative regulations. Any group that violates Board policy and/or administrative regulations may be subject to losing its right to meet on school premises, as otherwise guaranteed under the Equal Access Act.

### Classification

The building principal will determine whether a student group is curriculum-related or not. In order to qualify as curriculum-related, the relationship between the student group and the curriculum must meet one (1) of the following criteria:

1. Subject matter of the group must actually be taught or will be taught in a regularly scheduled course.
2. Subject matter of the group must concern the body of planned instruction as a whole.
3. Participation in the group is a course requirement.
4. Academic credit is earned for participation in the group.

Any student group that does not meet at least one (1) of the above criteria will be classified as noncurriculum-related.

### Curriculum-Related Student Groups

For curriculum-related groups, faculty advisors will have the authority to provide in-depth guidance and teaching to students, and will act on behalf of the district to ensure that the group's activities are aligned with the district's objectives. All such faculty advisors must teach a subject in the district whose content is directly related to the group's activities, or have sufficient experience or expertise related to that subject, as determined by the administration.

### Noncurriculum-Related Student Groups

A noncurriculum-related student group has a purpose and subject matter not directly related to the body of planned instruction offered by the school. Pursuant to the federal Equal Access Act, all meetings and activities of noncurriculum-related student groups must be initiated, directed and controlled by district students and not by other individuals, including school personnel, parents/guardians, and all other nonschool individuals who have no official affiliation or relationship to the school.

Nonschool persons may not regularly attend meetings or activities of noncurriculum-related student groups. Notification of the attendance of a nonschool person at a meeting must be submitted to the principal at least seven (7) school days prior to the meeting.

For noncurriculum-related student groups, faculty advisors will act as a monitor for the students, and may provide assistance in facilitating logistics when requested. However, the students must retain control of such meetings and activities. Faculty advisors for noncurriculum-related groups may not assume any leadership, direction or control of student groups; may not speak on behalf of student groups; and may not participate in any activities of student groups.

### Student Group Registration

Students requesting to form a group must apply in writing to the building principal. At that time and each year thereafter, student groups will be required to:

1. Submit a list of its members and officers.
2. Submit a copy of its constitution and/or bylaws.

### District Authority

The Superintendent, building principal and/or designee has full authority to prohibit unlawful meetings; maintain discipline and order on school premises; prevent the material and substantial interference with the orderly conduct of educational activities; and/or protect the well-being of students and other members of the school community.

### Scheduling Meetings

Based upon availability and advance request, properly registered student groups may conduct meetings on school premises before and after school and during the lunch hour, as the schedule permits.

Requests for permission to schedule meetings of student groups must be submitted on the district form to the principal or designee at least seven (7) days prior to the meeting.

Presence Of Faculty Advisors

To ensure appropriate levels of safety, the district requires the presence of a faculty advisor for all meetings and activities of student groups, whether curriculum-related or not. If a student group is unable to secure a faculty advisor, the district will ensure that one is provided. No school employee will be expected to attend or monitor a meeting if the content of the speech at the meeting is contrary to the employee's beliefs.

Meeting/Activity Announcements

The principal will allow all student groups, whether curriculum-related or not, to have their meetings and activities announced through district media, such as bulletin boards, morning announcements on the P.A. system, school television program, school calendar, school newspaper, district web site, and school hallways for announcement posters, subject to the following requirements:

1. Announcements for student group meetings and activities, whether curriculum-related or not, may only include the name of the group; date, time, and place of the meeting or activity; and general subject of the meeting or activity. Announcements will not advocate for a particular position or promote a viewpoint.
2. All announcements must be submitted to the principal or designee at least one (1) school day in advance of the meeting or activity.
3. The principal or designee will ensure that all announcements adhere to these requirements, and will decide how such announcements may be displayed and/or conveyed.

Dissemination Of Policy/Regulations

Copies of pertinent Board policy and administrative regulations will be made available to students, parents/guardians, staff and administrators during regular business hours in the principal's office.

A copy of pertinent Board policy and administrative regulations will be provided to the student members and faculty advisors of all student groups upon initial registration and annually thereafter.

Each member of a student group will be asked to sign a statement indicating that s/he has read, understands, and agrees to abide by Board policy and administrative regulations.