

## STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS AND ACTIVITIES

Student organizations have purposes and activities supportive of and consistent with the educational program of the Bethlehem Central School District (district) are encouraged and sanctioned. A sanctioned student organization is one which functions in accordance with the purpose and intent of this policy and pursuant to administrative rules and regulations promulgated to implement same, and must be approved by the Building Principal of the building in which the organization will carry on its primary activities.

In that the district receives, directly and indirectly, federal financial assistance, it is bound by the Equal Access Act which requires that non-sanctioned student groups have equal access to school facilities in accordance with the terms and provisions thereof, and administrative rules and regulations promulgated to govern the use of school facilities by such groups shall not conflict with the requirements of the Equal Access Act.

Administrative procedures promulgated for the sanctioning of student organizations pursuant to this policy shall take into consideration the organization's purpose, membership, activities, financing, safeguarding of available funds, and supervision, as well as any affiliation with an outside organization, and in the event of any outside affiliation, such must be fully disclosed in writing, and include a copy of the charter or other organizational indicia of said outside organization, provided however that the membership in the local student organization shall be limited to enrolled students of the district.

The district considers participation in extracurricular activities to have an inherent educational value and therefore requires that any such organization or activity have meaningful physical, educational, social or cultural content and professional direction and management. Such organization or activity shall be open to all students who meet the specific school or activity requirements related to the purpose of such activity, and shall not discriminate on the basis of race, color, creed, sex, national origin, religion, age (except where such organization or activity is age specific or qualified), economic status, marital status or disability.

Any student organization or activity, and any student group exercising its right to meet on school premises pursuant to the Equal Access Act, may be prohibited from meeting or otherwise holding its activities if, in the judgement of the Superintendent, it causes or creates or is likely to cause or create a disruption or interference with the operation of the school program or curriculum, or if it violates any rule or regulation governing same, promulgated pursuant hereto. The decision of the Superintendent of Schools may be appealed to the Board which may base its decision solely on the facts available to the Superintendent of Schools or, in its absolute and complete discretion, allow the effected Schools or, in its absolute and complete discretion, allow the effected organization or group to make a presentation of the facts supporting its position.

Each student organization, whether it be sanctioned or otherwise allowed to utilize the limited open forum, shall have a school district employee approved by the Building Principal as an advisor or sponsor, although no such advisor or sponsor shall actively participate in any religious meeting or activity.

The Superintendent of Schools, in consultation with district staff including the involved building administrator, shall develop, promulgate and implement appropriate rules and regulations to achieve the purposes of this policy.

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Adoption date: June 19, 2002