

**STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS**

Student organizations have an important place in the educational program. When properly organized and operated, they:

1. Extend and reinforce the instructional program.
2. Give students practice in democratic self-government.
3. Build student morale and positive support for the school.
4. Honor outstanding student achievement.
5. Provide wholesome social and recreational activities.

School-sponsored organizations must be organized at the school, sponsored by school personnel, composed completely of current student body members, hold the majority of their meetings at school and have a democratic plan for the selection of members. Organizational activities shall not conflict with the authority and responsibilities of school officials.

**Limited Open Forum**

District schools shall maintain a limited open forum during which students may hold meetings or activities not directly related to the school curriculum. The principal shall schedule this forum on non-instructional time so that it in no way interferes with regular school activities.

(cf. 6116 - Classroom Interruptions)

The Board shall not deny access to any student-initiated group on the basis of religious, political, philosophical or any other content to be addressed at such meetings.

(cf. 5145.2 - Freedom of Speech/Expression)

The Superintendent or designee shall insure that meetings held within the limited open forum are voluntary and student-initiated, with no direction, control or regular attendance by nonschool persons.

School staff shall not promote or participate in these meetings, but may be assigned to simply observe them, provided that the meeting does not conflict with the staff member's beliefs.

Meetings held within the limited open forum shall entail no expenditure of public funds beyond the incidental cost of providing the meeting space. Any announcement of meetings shall clearly state that the group is not sponsored by the school or school staff.

## STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS (continued)

Authorization of use under the federal Equal Access Act does not indicate that the Board approves or advocates matters which are discussed at open forum meetings. Furthermore, religious groups granted access pursuant to the Equal Access Act are granted access only pursuant to that Act. Such access does not constitute district sanction of any particular religious belief.

(cf. 1325 - Advertising and Promotion)  
(cf. 1330 - Use of School Facilities)  
(cf. 3452 - Student Activity Funds)  
(cf. 5145.2 - Freedom of Speech/Expression)

### Hazing

No student shall conspire to engage in hazing, participate in hazing, or commit any act that causes or is likely to cause bodily danger, physical harm, or personal degradation or disgrace resulting in physical or mental harm to any fellow student or other person. Persons violating this policy shall be subject to district discipline, misdemeanor penalties, and forfeiture of entitlements. (Education Codes 32051, 32052)

Membership in secret fraternities, sororities, and clubs is prohibited.

(cf. 5144 - Discipline)

#### Legal Reference:

##### EDUCATION CODE

40 Equal opportunity without regard to sex  
41 School sponsored athletic programs; prohibited sex discrimination  
200-262 Prohibition of discrimination on the basis of sex  
32050-32051 Hazing  
33352 Supervision of physical education by State Department of Education  
33353 California Interscholastic Foundation; governing board has power to select athletic league representatives  
33353.5 California Interscholastic Foundation; direct participation in student athletic insurance program; limitation of receipt of funds  
33354 Powers of State Department of Education over interscholastic athletics  
35179 Powers and responsibilities of governing board over all aspects of interscholastic athletic programs, policies, and activities in its district; obligation to conform to law; associations; nondiscriminatory programs; definitions  
48930-48938 Student organizations  
49020 Athletic programs: Legislative intent  
49021 Equal opportunity for male and female students  
49022 Apportionment of funds for male and female students  
49023 Expenditure of public funds; prohibited sex discrimination

##### CODE OF REGULATIONS, TITLE 5

5531 Supervision of extracurricular activities of pupils

##### PENAL CODE

627-627.10 Access to school facilities

**STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS (continued)**

Legal Reference: (continued)

TITLE VIII - THE EQUAL ACCESS ACT (Federal)

Hartzell v. Connell, 84 Daily Journal D.A.R. 1417 (April 20, 1984)

Perumal et al v. Saddleback Valley Unified School District, 88 Daily Journal D.A.R. 1426

Board of Education of Westside Community Schools v. Mergens, 58 U.S. Law Week 4720 (June 4, 1990)