

MSAD 11

STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS

The Board encourages students to enhance their knowledge and citizenship by participation in ongoing student organizations such as clubs, athletic teams, and other groups to promote or pursue specialized activities outside the regular classroom environment.

All organizations should be structured to help students develop their skills, knowledge and understanding of their chosen activity together with fostering respect and appreciation for team members, opponents, coaches, and officials. It is the Board's intent that all organizations promote healthy competition, sportsmanship, cooperation, ethical conduct, integrity, and citizenship.

MEMBERSHIP

Membership in all student organizations shall be open on a voluntary basis in accordance with Board policy. Student organizations may establish specific qualifications for membership when there is purpose for the organization. No student shall be denied membership on account of their race, color, national origin, ancestry, familial status, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, genetic information, disability, or religion. Qualifications based on gender may be imposed only where necessary to preserve the health, safety, or welfare of students, or where gender is a bona fide and integral qualification for the activities of the organization.

MEETINGS OF STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS

All student organizations shall have the right to meet on school premises during non-instructional time as designated by the building principal. No student organizations shall be denied equal access to school facilities on the basis of religious, political, philosophical, or other content of the speech at the meetings of such organizations, except as otherwise provided in this policy.

EQUAL ACCESS FOR STUDENT-INITIATED NON-ENDORSED GROUPS

Students and/or parents/guardians seeking to establish a voluntary, non-curriculum related student group shall first seek approval of the building principal.

Student and/or parent/guardians initiated, non-curricular related groups shall be permitted to conduct voluntary meetings on school grounds only before or after the school day, provided that the meetings do not materially or substantially interfere with the orderly conduct of the educational activities of the school or violate Board policy or state and federal law. Such meetings shall be open to all students without regard to race, color, national origin, disability, sexual orientation, or religion.

SANCTIONING OF STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS

Sanctioning is defined as the formal approval of an organization by the Board. Sanctioning allows participants in the organization to be representatives of MSAD 11 who must abide by all Board policies and procedures.

1. Requests to form a student organization must first be submitted to the building principal.
2. The Superintendent must pre-approve all coaches/advisors for all sanctioned student organizations even if they are not employed by the District. These individuals must abide by all

Board policies and procedures and will be supervised and evaluated, whether the individual is paid a stipend or not. A student and parent survey will be administered as part of an evaluation process.

3. Volunteerism from community members should be encouraged by student organizations and the administration. Volunteers who have opportunity to be alone with students (i.e. the only adult in a locker room supervising students, transporting students in a personal vehicle, etc.) must have their CHRC (fingerprinting) at the volunteer's expense.
4. The Board will sanction only those programs that are consistent with goals and policies as approved by the Board.
5. Unfunded Board sanctioning allows for the following:
 - a. Use of the school name
 - b. Liability coverage under MSAD 11
 - c. Use of school transportation (at the club's expense and availability), resources, and facilities (see Policy KF - Community Use of Facilities)
 - d. Eligibility for league and tournament participation (at the club's expense)
6. Funded Board sanctioning allows for the following:
 - a. Use of the school name
 - b. Liability coverage under MSAD 11
 - c. Use of school transportation, resources, and facilities
 - d. Eligibility for league and tournament participation
7. The following criteria will be the basis for the Board's decision:
 - a. Alignment with Board Policy
 - b. Gender Equity – Title IX
 - c. Student Body Interest
 - d. Community Interest
 - e. Impact on Existing Programs
 - f. Impact on Transportation
 - g. Impact on Facilities
 - h. Impact on Administration
 - i. Availability of Competition
 - j. Potential to Field Competitive Teams
 - k. Cost to Operate
 - l. Availability of Funds
8. New organizations will be placed on a two-year probationary status, during which time the program must meet all criteria set by the Board. Following completion of the second year, the appropriate administrator must submit to the Board an interim report. This report should provide recommendations and justifications for continued Board sanctioning. The Board reserves the right to approve or deny final organization status.
9. Student organizations will be reviewed annually by the building principal.

Cross Reference: JJA-P Participation Guidelines for Student Activities
JJA-R Procedure to Discontinue a Sport or Student Activity
JJA-JJF Financial Commitments for Student Athletic and Activities Programs
JJA-JJF-A1 Baseline Costs for Athletics
JJA-JJF-A2 Financial Commitments for Athletics/Co-Curricular Overview

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