

STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS

I. General Statement

The Board of Education of the Berlin Central School District recognizes the educational and civic values inherent in student participation in the extracurricular life of the school, and supports the concept of the formation of student groups to model sound social relationships, develop interests in a variety of academic areas, and achieve understanding of the essential elements of good citizenship.

The Superintendent of Schools, with the aid of students, faculty, and administration, shall develop procedures for registering and regulating student groups or clubs. Such procedures shall ensure that the District will register any group organized for a purpose not prohibited by Board policy, if such group submits a list of its members designated as contacts, a copy of its constitution or bylaws, or both, and the constitution and bylaws of any off-campus organization with which it may be affiliated.

Student groups may not restrict membership on the basis of race, sex, national origin, or other arbitrary criteria.

II. Fraternities, Sororities, and Secret Societies

The Board of Education may prohibit the formation of any club, including a fraternity or sorority, or any other secret society, whose deliberations and activities have caused or are likely to cause a disruption of or interference with the program of the Berlin Central Schools.

III. Nature of the Forum Established

Administrative regulations governing the use of school facilities shall abide by the Equal Access Act in the creation of a "limited open forum." All non-curriculum-related student activities, regardless of their religious or political content, shall have the same opportunities as any other such activity to operate on school grounds.

IV. Disclaimers

Nothing in this policy or in regulations adopted to implement this policy shall be construed to constitute sponsorship by the District, its agents, or its employees of any student group, organization, or entity meeting without school sponsorship; nor shall any approval, advocacy, or other support of any such group, organization, or entity's philosophy, program, or point of view be inferred therefrom. This disclaimer of sponsorship shall be published in every District policy or publication pertaining to student meetings. Notices of meetings of student groups, organizations, or entities that are not school-sponsored shall be posted and displayed in accordance with regulations developed by the Superintendent of Schools for use in each school building.

V. Funding by District

No public funds shall be supplied to any non-curricular student groups, organization, or entity, except through incidental and minimal costs involved in providing a meeting place.

References

20 USC 4071-4074 (Equal Access Act)

Education Law Secs. 207,1709-a

8 NYCRR 172

Bd. of Educ. of the Westside Community Schools v. Mergens, 496 US 226 (1990)

Healy v. James, 408 US 169 (1972)

Tinker v. DesMoines Independent Community School Dist., 393 US 503 (1969)