

This policy is adopted in order to implement the purposes, goals, and limitations of the federal Equal Access Act (the Act), and shall be interpreted consistently with the Act.

A. Definitions

1. A “noncurriculum-related student group” means any student group organized around subject matter that does not directly relate to the body of courses (curriculum) offered by the school. Subject matter is related to the curriculum when:
 - the subject matter of the group is actually taught or will soon be taught in a regularly offered course; or
 - the subject matter of group concerns the body of course as a whole; or
 - participation in the group is required for a particular course; or
 - participation in the group results in academic credit.
2. A “limited open forum” exists whenever a public secondary school permits one or more non-curriculum related student groups to meet on school premises during non-instructional time. A “limited open forum” is not created, however, by activities traditionally sponsored by the school, but not directly related to the curriculum, such as athletic activities, school plays, and school talent shows, etc.
3. A “meeting” includes those activities of student groups which are permitted under a school’s “limited open forum” and are not directly related to the school curriculum.
4. “Non-instructional time” is time set aside by the school before actual classroom instruction begins or after actual classroom instruction ends, including lunch periods.
5. “Sponsorship” means the act of promoting, leading, or participating in a meeting, but the assignment of a teacher, administrator, or other school employee to a meeting for custodial purposes does not constitute sponsorship of the meeting.

B. Policy on Limited Open Forums in Secondary Schools

1. No secondary school within the District is required to create a “limited open forum.” The administration of each school may decide whether to create or maintain a “limited open forum” based upon the best interests of the school and its students.

- 2. If a school creates or maintains a limited open forum, however, it may not discriminate against students who wish to conduct a meeting of a non-curriculum related group within that forum on the basis of the religious, political, philosophical, or other content of the speech at such meetings. Subject to reasonable control of the time, place, and manner of the speech and meetings, the secondary school may not deny other student clubs equal access and opportunity to hold meetings on school premises during non-instructional time, on the basis of the content of their speech.**
- 3. A school that has opted to create or maintain a "limited open forum" shall uniformly provide and ensure that the meetings of non-curriculum related student groups:**
 - a. Are voluntary and student-initiated;**
 - b. Are not sponsored by the school, the government, or its agents or employees;**
 - c. Do not materially and substantially interfere with the orderly conduct of educational activities within the school; and**
 - d. Are not directed, controlled, conducted, or regularly attended by non-school persons.**
- 4. If the meetings are religious, employees or agents of the school may not sponsor such meetings, and may attend only in a non-participatory, custodial capacity and upon assignment by the administration.**
- 5. In meeting the obligations under the Act in a secondary school in which a "limited open forum" is provided, school employees shall not:**
 - a. Influence the content of any prayer or other religious activity in the school;**
 - b. Require any person to participate in prayer or other religious activity in the school;**
 - c. Provide any public funding for any religious activity other than the cost incidental to the space for the student meetings;**
 - d. Compel other school employees to attend any meeting if the content of the speech at the meeting is contrary to the beliefs of the employees;**
 - e. Sanction meetings which would otherwise be unlawful;**
 - f. Sponsor such religious meetings;**

- g. Attend such religious meetings other than in a non-participatory capacity;
- h. Allow meetings which materially and substantially interfere with the orderly conduct of educational activity within the school;
- i. Allow non-school persons to direct, conduct, control, or regularly attend activities of such religious meetings;
- j. Limit the authority of the school to maintain order and discipline on school premises, to protect the well-being of students and faculty, to assure that attendance at such religious meetings is voluntary, and to make such regulations as required by considerations of space, safety, and the common good;
- k. Limit access to the forum to student groups with a minimum number of students interested in becoming members; and
- l. Abridge the constitutional rights of any person.

Student Clubs and Groups**A. Three types of clubs or groups are permitted at Lordsburg High School:**

- 1. **School-Sponsored Clubs:** Student clubs or groups that are *sponsored* by the school because their purpose and goals are related to the school's curriculum, such as Spanish Club;
- 2. **Student-Initiated Clubs:** Student clubs or groups initiated by students that are recognized, but not sponsored, by the school because their purposes and goals are not related to the curriculum, but which are permitted to meet at school during non-instructional time; and
- 3. **Outside Clubs or Groups:** Youth clubs or groups, such as Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts, which include students as members, but which are neither "sponsored" nor "recognized" by the school, and which are merely permitted the use of school facilities after school hours on an equal footing with other community groups.

B. Student Clubs shall be formed as follows:

- 1. Students who wish to form a School-Sponsored Club shall make a request to the Principal for approval and sponsorship.
- 2. Students who wish to form a Student-Initiated Club shall make a request to the Principal for approval and recognition.

3. Both types of clubs must be open to all students on an equal basis, must be voluntary, and must operate on the basis of the procedural guidelines established by the student council acting in concert with the Principal.
 4. School-Sponsored Clubs shall be assigned a faculty sponsor, and if no faculty member is willing to accept such appointment, the formation of the club may be delayed or denied.
 5. Student-Initiated Clubs shall have assigned to them a faculty supervisor, and, if the club is religiously oriented, the faculty member shall be limited to non-participatory and custodial responsibilities; if no faculty member is willing to accept such appointment, the formation of the club may be delayed or denied.
 6. Approval of the formation of any club will not be denied on the basis of the speech or viewpoint of the club or its members, except that such approval may be denied if the proposed clubs meetings would materially and substantially interfere with the orderly conduct of educational activity within the school, or would impede the ability of the administration to maintain order and discipline on school premises, to protect the well being of students and faculty, to assure that attendance at religious meetings is voluntary, and to make such regulations as required by consideration of space, safety, and the common good.
 7. Lists of School-Sponsored Clubs sponsored by the school, and of Student-Initiated Clubs recognized by the school, will be maintained by the school.
- C. In addition to other limitations and restrictions governing students and student organizations, all non-curricular, Student-Initiated Clubs are subject to the following limitations:
1. Meetings or activities at school of religiously oriented Student-Initiated clubs may include no employees or agents of the school except upon assignment by the administration in a nonparticipatory, custodial capacity; and
 2. Non-school persons may not direct, conduct, control, or regularly attend meetings or activities of such clubs at school.
- D. Advertising in the school by Student-Initiated Clubs and by Outside Clubs or Groups shall be limited to announcements of the times and places of such clubs' meetings as part of the daily announcements over the school intercom.