

STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS/CLUBS

Background

Student organizations/clubs can add much to the culture and “life” of a school and help students feel included and involved in their school. Student organizations/clubs shall be established and approved (except where outlined in legislation/regulation) by the school Principal. Areas of interest for student organizations/clubs may be suggested by students and discussed with the school Principal to determine their viability.

Such organizations/clubs shall be voluntary, and intended to promote a welcoming, caring, respectful and safe learning environment that respects diversity and fosters a sense of belonging.

Principals are responsible for the administration of this administrative procedure.

Procedures

1. The formation and meeting within the schools of student organizations/clubs as may be desired by any group of students is acceptable providing that:
 - 1.1.1 The meetings are held outside the instructional hours of the school;
 - 1.1.2 There is supervision by a staff member;
 - 1.1.3 The organization/club's principles and ideals respect and adhere to the *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms*, and other relevant legislation/regulation and Division Policy 14 - *A Place for All*
 - 1.1.4 The group(s) solicit membership in a manner applicable to all student organizations/clubs, as approved by the Principal;
2. Initiation or any similar activities which result in harassment, abuse or ridicule of an individual student are not consistent with maintaining dignity, self-esteem and good sportsmanship. Hazing shall not be part of any school organization/club activities or membership. Initiation or any similar activities which result in harassment, abuse or ridicule of an individual student are not consistent with maintaining dignity, self-esteem and providing a safe and caring environment.
3. After consideration of the rationale for the group, the Principal shall give the final approval as to whether the student organization/club is to be a school-sponsored activity.
4. The Principal shall, at the commencement of each school year, provide a list of student organizations/clubs to parents/legal guardians and include information regarding the purposes and membership criteria of student organizations/clubs via the school website.

Reference: Relevant Legislation and Regulations