STUDENTS: Activities

Student Organizations and Clubs

I. Purpose

To implement Policy 5320 by establishing guidelines for student organizations and clubs desiring to conduct activities in Baltimore County Public Schools (BCPS).

II. Curriculum-Related Organizations and Clubs

A. Any group of three or more students who desire to form an organization or club for which there is sufficient interest and support must submit a written list of goals and objectives to the principal for approval.

B. Curriculum-related organizations and clubs approved by the principal must have an assigned staff sponsor.

C. All curriculum-related organizations and clubs must be open to all students in the school.

III. Other Student-Organized Groups

A. A group of students enrolled in the school that wishes to conduct a meeting in a school or on school property for religious, political or philosophical purposes will be approved under the following conditions:
   1. Each school principal will determine the designated limited open forum time to ensure equal access to student groups wishing to meet. A limited open forum is defined as the lunch period or before or after school at a time approved by the principal.
   2. The meeting is voluntary and student-initiated. The principal must be assured that students are the ones promoting the activities and that they are participating of their own volition.
   3. School staff shall not promote, lead or participate in the meetings. The principal may assign personnel to supervise the meetings; however, supervision of the meeting does not constitute sponsorship by the school or school system.
   4. School staff will be present at religious meetings only in a non-participatory capacity.
   5. The meeting does not in any way interfere with the orderly conduct of educational activities of the school.
IV. Compliance

A. Students who participate in student organizations and clubs shall follow the student code of conduct as outlined in the BCPS Student Handbook.

B. The organization’s activities shall comply with all Board Policies, Superintendent’s Rules, and school procedures. The principal is authorized to deny access and/or disband a student organization for its failure to comply with Board policies, Superintendent’s rules or school procedures.

C. The principal is authorized to limit a student’s attendance or remove a student from a student organization or club for violations of the student code of conduct.

Legal References:

Annotated Code of Maryland, Education Article § 7-108, Use of Public School Property by Community
COMAR 13A.08.01.09, Student Organizations

Related Policies:

Board of Education Policy 3160, Review and Approval of School-Sponsored Activities
Board of Education Policy 5500, Conduct
Board of Education Policy 5600, Students’ Responsibilities and Rights

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