Regulation JHC-R(1): Student Organizations Status: ADOPTED

Original Adopted Date: 07/15/2021 | Last Reviewed Date: 07/15/2021

The following provisions and expectations will apply to student clubs and organizations in the Bibb County School District (District).

A. General Provisions

1. Definitions

a. Patriotic Society: a youth organization listed in Title 36 of the US Code as a patriotic society that promotes good citizenship, civic education, and patriotism, including but not limited to, the Boy Scouts of America and its affiliated Georgia groups and councils and the Girl Scouts of the USA and its affiliated Georgia groups and councils.

~~a.~~b. School Club: School clubs are comprised of students who wish to organize and meet for common goals, objectives, or purposes and which are directly under the sponsorship, direction and control of the school, including any activities reasonably related to such clubs and organizations, excluding competitive interscholastic activities or events. Specifically, a school club includes all curriculum-related student groups and all faculty-led non-curriculum related student groups which do not hold or set forth any particular religious, political, or philosophical beliefs.

c. Sponsor: an individual who is in whole or in part responsible for sponsorship of a meeting. Such term shall not include a school administrator, teacher, or other school personnel who has been assigned to attend a meeting for custodial purposes.

~~b.~~d. Student Organization: Student-initiated, student-led non-curriculum related student groups, including all groups which hold or set forth any particular religious, political, or philosophical beliefs and will be allowed equal access in accordance with the requirements of the Equal Access Act. (See 20 USC §4071).

2. Access and Communications

a. Student Organizations and School Clubs:

Student organizations and school clubs will be afforded the same privileges on campuses including, but not limited to:

i. Use of school rooms for meetings and activities.

ii. Posting of notices concerning the student organization on designated school bulletin boards or material distribution tables/areas, if such boards or areas exist. Materials which are to be posted on the designated bulletin board or area must be approved by the principal or designee to ensure that the materials are not libelous, obscene, or disruptive and that the materials do not advocate, promote or depict illegal substances or activities. The principal or designee ~~must~~ will either approve or reject the materials within 72 hours of receipt.

iii. Use of public address systems for announcements concerning organization meetings and activities. The use of the public address systems for philosophical or advocacy statements will not be allowed.

iv. Coverage in school newspapers and yearbooks.

v. These privileges will not include access to any other signs or display areas inside or outside the school building.

b. Patriotic Societies:

Pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 20-2-324.10, the District will allow representatives of a patriotic society the opportunity to speak with students to promote good citizenship, civic education, and patriotism during school hours.

Except as provided in this section or as otherwise required by law ~~E~~, nothing in this Regulation will be construed to give any group that is not a school club or student organization access to the school facilities described in this section.

B. Sponsors/Monitors

1. School Club:

a. The principal will assign faculty members to sponsor and coordinate activities of school clubs.

b. ~~Non-school persons~~Adult non-school personnel may regularly attend and assist with school clubs under the direction and control of the faculty sponsor.

2. Student Organization:

a. The principal will not designate anyone as a sponsor, coordinator, or coach of a student organization. Further, no faculty member will be compelled to be a monitor of~~on~~ a student organization. However, the principal will approve a faculty member as a monitor of the school to assure that the use of school facilities by student organizations is in keeping with the procedures of the school. The monitor will not participate in any way in meetings or activities of the student organization.

b. ~~Non-school persons~~Adult non-school personnel may not direct, conduct, control, or regularly attend activities of student organizations.

C. Parent/Guardian Notification and Declining Participation

1. School Club:

a. Notification:

(1) Information on school clubs varies by school; therefore, each school will provide a list of school clubs available at that school annually.

(2) School-produced student handbooks, other school-provided information and/or school w~~W~~ebsites may include the following information on each school club:

(a) Name;

(b) Mission or purpose;

(c) Name/names of the school club's faculty advisor(s); and

(d) A description of past or planned activities.

b. Declining Participation:

Parents/guardians may opt their child (under the age of 18) out of participating in a specific school club by providing written notice to the principal or designee. The form to opt out of participation in a school club is found in the Student Code of Conduct.

2. Student Organization:

a. Notification:

(1) Information on school organizations varies by school; therefore, each school will provide a list of school organizations available at the school annually.

(2) Each student organization will be responsible for providing information to all prospective participants. Specifically, the following information on each student organization will be provided:

(a) Name;

(b) Mission or purpose;

(c) Name of faculty member serving as a monitor; and

(d) A description of past or planned activities.