

540 STUDENT CLUBS

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to ensure that students are aware of and comply with the school district's expectations for the establishment and *operation of* student clubs.

II. GENERAL STATEMENT OF POLICY

Students are encouraged to establish clubs which comply with state and federal law and are consistent with the school district philosophy and goals.

III. DEFINITIONS

Student Clubs

A student club is an association of people united by a common interest or goal that exists for voluntary or charitable activities. Student clubs are typically student-initiated and student-led.

IV. STUDENT CLUBS IN GENERAL

Student clubs are differentiated into two groups.

A. Not District-Recognized

Groups utilizing district facilities, but not affiliated with the school district shall have access (under the Equal Access Policy, #801) to district facilities for meeting. These clubs must schedule time and space through the District Community Education Office. Such groups will not have access to announcements and/or advertisement within individual buildings.

B. District-Recognized

The school board will review proposals for clubs wishing to be district-recognized. These clubs will be expected to adhere to Minnesota State High School League guidelines for good sportsmanship and ethical behavior, along with district policies regarding eligibility. Membership in district-recognized clubs will be open to all students who meet the criteria set forth within each club's constitution. Rights granted to these clubs are:

1. access to building announcements and other means of advertisement within facilities;
2. access to facilities for meetings and activities;
3. ability to sponsor public activities with approval from the building principal and/or Activities Director; and

4. supervision by district-approved advisor.

Responsibilities of these organizations are:

1. maintain an updated, accurate and School Board approved constitution; and
2. submit documentation of membership, finances and sponsored activities to the Building Principal and/or Activities Director every two years.

V. ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE

Belle Plaine School District students have the opportunity to establish clubs which meet the goals and objectives of the school district. Groups receiving district-recognized status will meet established criteria as follows:

- A. Verify a recommended minimum membership of ten students;
- B. Supervision by district-approved advisor; and
- C. Organizational constitution submitted to and approved by the School Board.

VI. PROCEDURE FOR OBTAINING DISTRICT-RECOGNITION STATUS

The Belle Plaine School Board reserves the right to grant conditional and/or final approval for district-recognition of clubs. The school board may choose to limit the number of recognized groups according to resource limitations.

- A. Students interested in seeking district-recognition for a club will present a preliminary proposal, including Statement of Purpose, to the Building Principal and/or Activities Director for consideration. This recognition request will then be forwarded to the school board for preliminary consideration.
- B. Once preliminary consideration is granted, the students must write and submit to the school board an organizational constitution which includes the following:
 1. a statement of purpose;
 2. a description of club goals;
 3. a description of the leadership structure;
 4. a description of the decision-making process;
 5. a description of anticipated activities to be sponsored by the club; and
 6. a description of any anticipated need for funds or fundraising.

- C. Conditional and/or final approval will be granted by the school board based on the clarity of the club's constitution, and the alignment of the club's purpose and goals with those of the Belle Plaine Public Schools.

VII. REMOVAL OF DISTRICT-RECOGNITION STATUS

Clubs no longer meeting the organizational structure requirements (as indicated in IV.B. and V. above) will be designated as having Not District-Recognized status.

Cross References: Belle Plaine Policy 801 (Equal Access to School Facilities)