

Book	Policy Manual
Section	100 Programs
Title	Noncurriculum-Related, Nonschool-Sponsored, Student-Initiated Groups
Code	122.3 Vol V 2025
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NOTE: It is important to distinguish that Policy 122.3 only applies to noncurriculum-related, nonschool-sponsored, student-initiated groups seeking permission to use center (school) premises to meet. In this policy, it is the granting of the opportunity to meet that is approved; not the group itself.

- Extracurricular activities that are sponsored or approved by the Joint Operating Committee are governed by Policy 122. Extracurricular Activities.*
- Nonschool organizations, groups and individuals initiating a request for use of center (school) facilities or dissemination of materials are governed by policies 707. Use of Center (School) Facilities and 913. Nonschool Organizations/Groups/Individuals.*

Purpose

The center (school), by making a limited open forum available, provides the opportunity for **noncurriculum-related, nonschool-sponsored, student-initiated** groups of secondary students to meet, without discrimination, on center (school) premises during noninstructional time for the purpose of conducting a meeting regardless of the religious, political, philosophical or other content of the speech at such meetings.[\[1\]](#)[\[2\]](#)[\[3\]](#)

Definitions

Noninstructional time - the time set aside by the center (school) before actual classroom instruction begins, after actual classroom instruction ends or during time designated for lunch.

Limited open forum - a public secondary school has a limited open forum whenever such school grants an offering to or opportunity for one or more noncurriculum-related student groups to meet on center (school) premises during noninstructional time.[\[1\]](#)

Noncurriculum-related student group - any student-initiated group that does not directly relate to the body of courses offered by the center (school).[\[4\]](#)

Sponsorship - the act of promoting, leading or participating in a meeting. The assignment of a teacher, administrator or other center (school) employee to a meeting for custodial purposes does not constitute sponsorship of the meeting.[\[5\]](#)

Authority

Meetings of **noncurriculum** student groups (student groups) must be voluntary, student-initiated and conducted in accordance with applicable state and federal laws, regulations, Joint Operating Committee policies and center (school) rules.[\[1\]](#)[\[2\]](#)[\[3\]](#)[\[6\]](#)

Such meetings must not be **under the sponsorship of** the center (school), its agents or employees.[\[1\]](#)

The meetings of student groups cannot materially and substantially interfere with the orderly conduct of the educational activities in the center (school).[\[1\]](#)

Availability and assignment of facilities, supplies and equipment necessary, **including access to center (school)-controlled methods of communication such as bulletin boards, a public-address system, and advertisements in the center (school) newspaper**, to conduct such meetings shall be provided in accordance with the Equal Access Act.[\[1\]](#)

Delegation of Responsibility

The Administrative Director or designee may establish **standard** procedures regarding the length of meetings, permissible number of meetings per week and other limitations deemed reasonably necessary.

The Administrative Director or designee will designate areas within center (school) buildings and outside areas authorized for meetings of student groups. Access to areas which have not been designated as meeting spaces by the Administrative Director or designee is prohibited.

A center (school) employee will be assigned to attend and monitor each student group meeting. Monitors will attend the meetings in a nonparticipatory capacity for the purpose of maintaining order. The assignment of a monitor does not constitute sponsorship of the meeting.[\[1\]](#)

Center (School) employees will not be required to attend any meeting where the content of the speech is contrary to their beliefs.[\[1\]](#)

Center (School) administrators and staff retain the authority to:[\[1\]](#)

1. Maintain order and discipline on center (school) premises.
2. Protect the well-being of students and employees.

3. Assure the attendance of students at such meetings is voluntary.

Guidelines

Students seeking permission to form a student group to meet during noninstructional time must submit a written request to the building administrator on the designated center (school) form.

All activities of the student group must be led by the student members of the group. The meetings and activities may not be directed, conducted, controlled or regularly attended by individuals from outside the center (school).[\[1\]](#)

Guests may be invited but may not be regular participants in the student meetings. All guests must comply with Joint Operating Committee policy regarding center (school) visitors.[\[7\]](#)

Materials prepared for dissemination on center (school) premises must comply with the provisions of Joint Operating Committee policy relating to the dissemination of materials.[\[8\]](#)

The funds of the center (school) may not be used for the operation of the meetings beyond the incidental cost of providing the space for the group to meet.

{ X } The student group may not be advertised as a center- (school-) sponsored activity. All announcements and disseminated materials must include a disclaimer of center (school) sponsorship or endorsement.

Students in violation of this policy and applicable rules may result in loss of the right to meet on center (school) premises and/or disciplinary action.[\[6\]](#)

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Legal

[1. 20 U.S.C. 4071 et seq](#)

2. Pol. 103

3. Pol. 103.1

4. Board of Education of Westside Community Schools v. Mergens, 496 U.S. 226 (1990)

[5. 20 U.S.C. 4072](#)

6. Pol. 218

7. Pol. 907

8. Pol. 220

Wolfe ex rel. Wolfe v. Twin Valley School District, No. 23-4501 (E.D. Pa. March 26, 2025), 2025 WL 920257