

POLICY

Queen Anne's County Public Schools

POLICY TITLE: STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS Student Organizations		
ADOPTION/EFFECTIVE DATE:	MOST RECENTLY AMENDED: 02/21/2013	MOST RECENTLY REAFFIRMED:
POLICY/PROCEDURE MANUAL SUMMARY CATEGORY:		

A. Purpose:

To set forth the conditions for establishing and maintaining student organizations in the Queen Anne's County Public Schools.

B. Policy Statement:

It is the policy of the Queen Anne's County school system to permit the organization and operation of student organizations in the secondary schools and to permit such organizations to meet on school premises during non-instructional time as designated by the principal. The purpose of this policy is to establish criteria and procedures governing the operation of student organizations.

The Superintendent or designee shall approve all student organizations both school sponsored and non-school sponsored within the school system.

No student shall conspire to engage in hazing, participate in hazing, or commit any act that causes or is likely to cause bodily danger, physical harm, personal degradation or disgrace resulting in physical or mental harm to any fellow student or other person. Persons violating this policy shall be subject to school discipline and possible referral to law enforcement.

C. Rationale:

The Queen Anne's County Public Schools recognizes student organizations offer students an opportunity to learn and expand their knowledge base and to develop their leadership abilities and skills for working within a group.

D. Definitions:

1. School Sponsored Student Organizations -

The purpose of school sponsored student organizations is to enhance the participants' educational experience and supplement the educational program of the school. The activities of these organizations should bear a clear relationship to the school's educational program.

2. Non-School Sponsored Student Organizations –

Non-school sponsored student organizations are student-initiated organizations that are not deemed to be school sponsored or endorsed. The fact that such organizations are permitted to conduct meetings under this policy shall not constitute an expression of school system support for the purposes of such organizations or the content of any meetings. Non-school sponsored student organizations must be student initiated and directed, and anyone who is not a student enrolled in the Queen Anne's County school system is prohibited from attending the meetings of such organizations, except that a staff member must be in attendance for all meetings.

D. Policy Standards:

The Superintendent shall develop Administrative Regulations to implement this policy.

E. Implementation:

Non-school sponsored student organizations may, under the Equal Access Act, conduct meetings on school property during non-instructional time as designated by the principal provided that:

- Such meetings are voluntary, student-initiated, and not represented or treated as school-sponsored organizations or clubs.
- There is no sponsorship or promotion of the meetings by the school or by school staff.
- A school staff member must be present during meetings to provide supervision in a non-participatory capacity
- The meetings do not and cannot reasonably be predicted to materially or substantially interfere with the orderly conduct of educational activities within the school, or would be contrary to the well-being of the students.
- Non-school staff do not direct, conduct, control, or regularly attend such meetings.
- No public funds are expended beyond the incidental costs of providing space for the meetings.

The principal of each school shall develop guidelines and rules concerning the procedure for scheduling meetings of student organizations and setting the times and facilities which are available for such meetings. Meeting times shall be limited to non-instructional time before or after the instructional day, during lunch time or as part of an established activity period. These guidelines and rules shall be made available to all students.

F. Evaluation:

The Superintendent will provide the Board of Education a review of this policy by August 2015. The focus of this review will be the effectiveness of the elements of this policy in assisting the Board in fulfilling its mission.

H. Reference