

## Student Groups

Organized student groups and activities are an integral part of school life and may be formed and may function in the school setting to serve this purpose. All students, regardless of their ability levels, should be encouraged to take part in student groups and activities. An administrative regulation shall specify the criteria and procedures for the formation and conduct of district-sponsored and nondistrict-sponsored related student groups and their use of district facilities.

All district-sponsored student groups that are regulated by Oregon School Activities Association (OSAA) must follow OSAA rules and guidelines. Students involved in those OSAA-regulated activities are subject to the rules and regulations of that organization.

Students groups not regulated by OSAA must follow district policy, administrative regulations and the district's code of conduct.

The federal Equal Access Act prohibits discrimination against secondary school student-initiated and controlled groups which are:

1. Of a political, philosophical or religious nature;
2. Not directly related to the school curriculum and which meet before or after school hours.

These student group, though not district sponsored, shall have the same opportunity to use district facilities as other noncurriculum-related student groups, subject to the right and obligation of the district to maintain order and discipline on district premises, to protect the well-being of students and faculty and to ensure that participation by students is voluntary.

Eligibility to participate in contests and performances of school-sponsored student groups may be tied to progress toward high academic standards including monitoring of the participant's grades and credits as well as assistance when ineligibility occurs due to lack of progress. An administrative regulation shall specify the criteria for eligibility.

END OF POLICY

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**Legal Reference(s):**

[ORS 339.880](#)  
[ORS 339.885](#)

[OAR 581-021-0050](#)  
[OAR 581-021-0055](#)

Equal Access Act, 20 U.S.C. §§ 4071-4074 (2017).

Lamb’s Chapel v. Center Moriches Unified Sch. Dist., 508 U.S. 384 (1993).

Westside Cmty. Bd. of Educ. v. Mergens, 496 U.S. 226 (1990).