

~~STUDENT ACTIVITIES~~INTERSCHOLASTIC / EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES  
(Secondary Schools)

Organized ~~student extracurricular~~ activities shall be open to all students in good standing and shall be voluntary. -The justification for such activities rests upon the extent to which they contribute to the fulfillment of the educational objectives of the School Division. ~~Extracurricular activities~~ Student activities include student organizations, athletics, and other interscholastic competitions. -All of these groups are required to follow all School Division policies, guidelines, and rules.- No activities may be in conflict with State accreditation standards.

**I. Athletics**

Interscholastic athletic programs approved by the School Board shall be available to all eligible secondary students.- Interscholastic athletic activities shall be conducted in accordance with the rules of the Virginia High School League, as approved by the Board.

Students attending middle school shall not be permitted to participate in any activity or sport at the secondary level except that eighth grade students may try out and/or participate on high school athletic teams at the subvarsity level, if they meet the following requirements:

1. Parental permission
2. Middle school principal permission and continuous review
3. Appropriate physical examination with specific consideration for physical maturity and appropriateness for collision sports when applicable, specifically, greater than Tanner Stage III or its equivalent
4. High school principal permission and continuous review
5. Meets all Virginia High School League qualifications, rules, and regulations to include academic standing

In no case shall eighth grade participation result in high school students being eliminated from a team.

Transportation of eighth grade students to the high school in order to participate in subvarsity sports is the responsibility of the individual student.

**II. Other Interscholastic Competition**

All other competition between secondary schools governed by the Virginia High School League shall be conducted in accordance with its rules.- The Board encourages this type of competition and will support it within the financial limits of the budget- Competitive sports and activities not governed by the Virginia High School League shall not be official school sports, and their organizations shall only meet after school, per School Board policy KG on community usage of school facilities.

### III. Student Organizations

#### A. Policy Statement

It is the policy of the School Division to permit the organization and operation of student organizations as an important enhancement of students' educational experience that can develop social, civic, leadership, and other skills; and to permit such organizations to meet on school premises during noninstructional time.- The purpose of this policy is to establish criteria and procedures governing the operation of student organizations.

**Commented [RC1]:** Added this phrase to capture the purpose of student organizations.

Student organizations shall not engage in any activity which is contrary to law, School Board policy, or school rules; which disrupts or clearly threatens to disrupt the orderly operation of the school; which materially and substantially disrupt the school's learning environment; which hinder the school administration's maintenance of order and discipline on school premises; or which would adversely affect the health, safety, or welfare of any students or staff members. Student organizations that promote or endorse violence, harassment, or hatred toward an identifiable person or group based on race, color, religion, ethnicity, national origin, ancestry, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, or disability or are affiliated with any organizations that do so shall not be permitted. ~~Student organizations shall comply with the purchasing policy of the School Division and may not extend the credit of the School Division.~~ Failure to comply with these provisions shall be grounds for individual disciplinary action or revocation of the right to conduct meetings under this policy.

**Commented [RC2]:** Added this phrase with Chesterfield as model to strengthen language around safety per Board recommendation.

**Commented [RC3]:** To be addressed later in a new section on fundraising.

#### B. ~~Curriculum related~~ Co-curricular Student Organizations

~~Curriculum related~~ Co-curricular student organizations serve as an extension of the regular school curriculum.- Their function is to enhance the participants' educational experience and supplement the course materials within the educational program of the schools. Examples of co-curricular organizations are academic honor societies, language clubs, student government, academic course related clubs, career and technical education organizations, yearbook, performance groups related to the fine arts and other similar activities.- The activities of these organizations must meet one of the following criteria:

**Commented [RC4]:** Definition language from Henrico County.

1. the club's subject matter must be taught in a regularly offered course or relate directly to the overall academic curriculum ~~as a whole~~;
2. participation in the club must be required as part of a course; or
3. participation in the club results in course credit.

Student organizations meeting these criteria and approved by the principal will be deemed to be officially recognized school-sponsored co-curricular student organizations.

~~Curriculum related~~ Co-curricular student organizations shall be sponsored and supervised by one or more of the members of the school faculty, approved by the principal. Faculty sponsors shall participate in the supervision and direction of all activities of the organization and shall attend all meetings.- No school employee shall be compelled to

attend a meeting of any student organization if the content of such meeting is contrary to the beliefs of that school employee. ~~School employees present at any meeting of a noncurriculum related student organization which includes religious worship, prayer or practice or is identified as having a religious purpose shall attend in a nonparticipatory capacity only.~~

**Commented [RC5]:** Moved this to the relevant section below on monitoring of non-curricular organizations.

C. ~~Noncurriculum related~~Non-curricular Student Organizations

Students are also permitted to organize and conduct meetings of ~~noncurriculum related~~non-curricular student organizations to pursue activities outside of the school curriculum, subject to the provisions of this policy **and in accordance with state and federal law.** ~~Non-curricular student organizations are initiated by students with recreational, community, religious, political, or other interests that are not part of the school curriculum.~~ Such organizations must meet all of the following guidelines:

**Commented [RC6]:** Added this to note the relevance of federal law.

1. Students must voluntarily attend club meetings;
2. Clubs must be student-initiated, student-led, **and be open to all students;**
3. Clubs must *not* be ~~sponsored~~funded or led by the school, teachers, or other faculty;
- ~~4.~~ Clubs cannot have an unlawful purpose.;

**Commented [RC7]:** Changed language to differentiate from sponsorship in terms of offering access to meeting space and physical school resources available for other student activities.

Schools must follow the guidelines for ~~noncurriculum related~~non-curricular student organizations as follows:

1. All ~~noncurriculum related~~non-curricular student organizations must have access to school facilities and physical resources equal to the access of ~~curriculum related~~co-curricular student organizations, such as equal access to meeting spaces, public address systems, school periodicals, bulletin board space, and fund raising ~~on school grounds~~activities.

2. School officials have the right to monitor ~~club~~non-curricular student organization meetings for the purpose of supervision; the assigned monitor must attend all meetings. ~~School personnel, parents~~Parents, guardians, community members, school personnel other than the monitor, and ~~any~~all other persons who are not students enrolled in the division are prohibited from directing, controlling, conducting or regularly attending the meetings of such organizations.

- ~~2.3.~~All non-curricular student organizations and activities in secondary schools shall be conducted in compliance with the Equal Access Act (20 U.S.C. §§ 4071-4074), as applied on an individual school basis. All activities must be conducted in compliance with Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972.

**Commented [RC8]:** Added relevant codes per SB and counsel recommendation. Model language is from Loudoun County Public Schools.

- ~~2.1.~~School officials have the right to require noncurriculum related student organizations to follow a set of guidelines, including designated meeting times and locations.

**Commented [RC9]:** This is true for all student organizations, not just non-curricular.

~~Noncurriculum related~~Non-curricular student organizations shall **not** be deemed to be school sponsored or endorsed by the school, and shall be sponsored only through the

**Commented [RC10R9]:** Moved to section for all organizations.

provision of meeting space, assignment of a staff monitor, management of finances, and access to facilities.- The fact that such organizations are permitted to conduct meetings under this policy shall not constitute an expression of School Division support for the purposes of such organizations or the content of any meetings thereof.

**Commented [RC11]:** Again, clarified the use of the word sponsor.

~~Noncurriculum related~~Non-curricular student organizations shall not have a faculty sponsor. ~~h.~~ However, a member of the school's professional staff shall attend every meeting or activity of such organizations as a monitor for purposes of general supervision, organizational support, and compliance with the student conduct policy.- The organization shall be responsible to assure the presence of a staff monitor for its meetings.- No school employee shall be compelled to attend a meeting of any student organization if the content of such meeting is contrary to the beliefs of that school employee. School employees present at any meeting of a non-curricular student organization which includes political activity, religious worship, prayer or practice; or is identified as having a political or religious purpose shall attend in a non-participatory capacity only.- ~~School employees present at any meeting of a noncurriculum related student organization which includes religious worship, prayer or practice or is identified as having a religious purpose shall attend in a nonparticipatory capacity only.~~

**Commented [RC12]:** Added organizational support to represent the facilitative role of current monitors.

**Commented [RC13]:** This section moved here from section on co-curricular organizations.

**Commented [RC14R13]:** Added political activities with Fairfax model.

D. Additional Regulations for All Student Organizations

1.- Membership \_\_\_\_\_

Membership in all student organizations is voluntary and shall be open to and limited to all students currently enrolled and in good standing in the sponsoring school.- Student organizations may establish academic qualifications for membership where necessarily related to the purposes of the organization.- No student shall be denied membership on account of his/her race, color, national origin, disability status, or religion.- Qualifications based on gender may be imposed only where necessary to preserve the health, safety or welfare of students, or where gender is a bona fide and integral qualification for the activities of the organization. Fees or dues for student organizations may be charged; however a process must exist to waive these for students who cannot afford such fees or dues.

**Commented [RC15]:** Added language consistent with ACPS stance on dues / fees for other activities.

2.- Meetings of Student Organizations

All student organizations shall have the right to meet on school premises during non-instructional time as designated by the school principal.- School officials have the right to require ~~noncurriculum related~~ student organizations to follow a set of guidelines, including designated meeting times and locations.

**Commented [RC16]:** This is true for all student organizations, not just non-curricular.

No student organization shall be denied equal access to school facilities during designated meeting times on the basis of the religious, political, philosophical or other content of the speech at the meetings of such organization.- No public-school funding or support shall be extended to any ~~noncurriculum related~~non-curricular student organization other than the opportunity to meet on school premises on an equal basis as

other student organizations.

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 ~~noninstructional~~non-instructional time before or after regular classroom hours or during established activities periods.- These guidelines and rules shall be made available to all students.- Student organizations may hand out flyers and post announcements and other materials only with prior approval of the principal or designee to ensure compliance with school board policies and school regulations. Student organizations wishing to conduct meetings under this policy must make application to the principal for permission in accordance with School Division procedures.

**Commented [RC17]:** Added per recommendation of families and sponsors for clarification of when student orgs can post material and hand out flyers.

In-person guest speakers during the school day shall be invited only by co-curricular student organizations and must present content related to the curriculum. In-person guest speakers shall not be permitted for non-curricular activities during the school day. A request for approval for all guest speakers shall be submitted to the principal or designee for review and include the purpose, content, and duration of the speech.

School employees who monitor student activities during contract hours shall not receive payment for this monitoring from any entity except for ACPS.

### 3. Fundraising by Student Organizations

All fundraising by student organizations, both inside and outside of the school, requires prior principal or designee approval per School Board policies KJA, KJB, and JL. All monies raised or collected by student organizations or clubs shall be school activity funds, and shall be deposited promptly with the school. Fundraising by and for student organizations outside of the school shall comply with School Board Policies KJA, KJB, and JL and all ~~are~~ monies raised in this manner shall be expended only for the purpose approved by the principal or designee or designee. If a student organization is dissolved, the student activity funds continue to belong to the school.

**Commented [RC18]:** Added with Chesterfield as model, per recommendation of School Board and ACPS counsel.

**Commented [RC19]:** Added with Chesterfield as model, per recommendation of School Board and ACPS counsel.

**Commented [RC20]:** Added language to distinguish between fundraising in the school and at school events versus outside of the school, consistent with policies KJA and KJB making clear the requirements for all student orgs to follow these policies in fundraising.

### 4. Association with Outside Organizations

Affiliation and working with an appropriate outside group might be a result of a student organization's existence and interest that is monitored at the local school. No outside group can have decision-making power over a student organization. Outside organizations may lend their services as a community outreach with tutors, or support personnel with prior principal approval; however non-school persons may not direct, conduct, or regularly attend the student-initiated activities. Donations from outside organizations to student activities shall be approved by the principal or designee to ensure compliance with school board policies.

**Commented [RC21]:** Added at the recommendation of SB - model language from Fairfax County Public Schools.

**Commented [RC22]:** Added per recommendation of sponsors and families.

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Amended: July 12, 1999; October 22, 2009; March 28, 2013; [July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2026](#)  
Reviewed: October 25, 2018

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Cross Ref.: JFC-R1, High School Eligibility and Code of Conduct: Athletics and Other Extracurricular Activities; [KJA: Crowdfunding Policy](#); [KJB: Fundraising in Schools](#); [JL: Fundraising and Solicitation](#)

Legal Ref.: 20 USC §§ 4071; [20 U.S.C. §1681](#)

## EXTRACURRICULAR CO-CURRICULAR AND NON-CURRICULAR CLUBS AND ACTIVITIES

### Procedures

#### A. Establishing a Program

1. Early in the school year the principal shall gather data on student interest in activities and organizations and notify students regarding opportunities to participate in the extracurricular program of the school. Descriptions of all existing and new student organizations will be shared with students prior to students signing up for groups and activities.
2. All activities should be established on the basis of educational merit, need, and interest from within the school. For co-curricular activities, ACPS professional staff or students may organize student organizations. For non-curricular activities, sOnly students ~~and faculty~~ have the right to suggest and organize any extracurricular club or activity for which there is sufficient interest and support and whose activities are not unlawful nor contrary to the policies of the Albemarle County Public Schools. The school may use its information gathering process on student interest to identify students interested in organizing the activities and assign a staff member to support these students to start the group.
3. All new student organizations must submit to the principal or designee an application for approval that includes a constitution describing the purpose, type (co or non-curricular), activities, membership or fee requirements (if any), outside group affiliations (if any), and staff sponsor or monitor of the group. Approval will be based on criteria applied equally to all proposed organizations, including compliance with all school board policies, and may include a minimum number of students interested. The school will maintain and update approved student organization constitutions for as long as the group operates within the school. Non-curricular student organizations approved in this way will be sponsored only through equal access to use of facilities and will receive no public funding. The purpose and content of meetings for non-curricular groups will not be considered as endorsed by the school.
- ~~2-4.~~ The total program of activities in the school should be comprehensive and well-balanced, providing many and varied opportunities for all students. This-The updated program will be shared by the beginning of the second quarter via an annual message to families and posting on the school's website and also shared with the Assistant Superintendent of School Community Engagement. This communication will include a brief description of each student organization based on the group's approved constitution.
- ~~3.~~ All activities should be established on the basis of educational merit, need, and interest

**Commented [RC23]:** Added per recommendation of students, families, and sponsors to have a more transparent and informative process for student sign-ups for activities/groups.

**Commented [RC24]:** Added language specifying a group charter to include a purpose statement and activities. Language modeled on Chesterfield County Public Schools.

~~from within the school.~~

~~4.5.~~ All activities shall be open to all students without discrimination on the basis of race, religion, sex, ~~gender,~~ or ~~disability handicap,~~ subject only to those qualifications necessary to fulfill the special aims of the organization.

B. Administering the Program

1. The participation of students in the ~~extracurricular-student activities~~ program should be based upon sound guidance rather than upon a set of rules and regulations formulated to control membership.- Students should be encouraged to participate in activities which satisfy current needs and interests, as well as to explore activities which would broaden their interests and experiences.- Some students need encouragement to participate more fully; however, others may need to be counseled against over-participation.- In all cases participation is a matter of voluntary choice by each student.
2. The principal, in consultation with the students involved, where such consulting is appropriate, appoints faculty or staff sponsors ~~or monitors~~ for all ~~school-sponsored~~ cocurricular and non-curricular student activities.
3. ~~For co-curricular organizations,~~ ~~t~~he role of the faculty sponsor is a various and changing one, depending upon the nature of the activity.- The sponsor may instruct, coach, supervise, administer, or advise at various times.- In general, however, the sponsor represents the principal in carrying out the overall responsibility for the ~~activity-program.~~
4. All activities for which the faculty sponsor ~~of a co-curricular organization or monitor of a non-curricular organization~~ is paid a stipend must be approved by the Superintendent /Designee in advance.
- ~~5. In those activities where faculty supervision is not a clearly defined student need, it may be appropriate for the principal to appoint adult supervisors who are neither faculty members nor employees of the school system. The principal retains overall responsibility for the selection of the sponsor and for monitoring the activities under non-school adult supervision. In such cases these sponsors would not be eligible for stipend benefit from the School Division.~~
- ~~5.6.~~ -The scheduling of the student activity program is a function of the individual school. Schools with a large number of students transported by bus may find it necessary to schedule most ~~extracurricular~~ activities during the school day.- Other schools, serving communities of high population concentration, may decide that afterschool student activities are better suited to their total population.
- ~~6.7.~~ -The principal may refuse to permit a student to participate in an extracurricular activity if the student has an unexcused absence on the same day as the activity.

~~8. Student organizations shall comply with the purchasing policy of the School Division and~~

**Commented [RC25]:** Removing this 1999 text as it conflicts with the 2009 revisions that are still in the policy in sections B and C.

may not extend the credit of the School Division.

**Commented [RC26]:** This is duplicative of the section above added on fundraising.

79. The factor of cost should not determine a student's participation in any activity or membership in any organization.

C. Evaluating the Program

1. Each year the principal or designee, in cooperation with the faculty and students, evaluates the ~~extracurricular~~ co-curricular and non-curricular program using participation and interest data to determine whether the activities are sufficiently meeting the needs and interests of the students. An annual list of all approved student organizations is provided to the Assistant Superintendent of School Community Engagement or designee by November 1<sup>st</sup> of each year, shared with the school community, and published on the school's website.
2. All rights and responsibilities of students, such as equal opportunities to participate, shall be carefully reviewed during the annual evaluation of the program.
3. All opportunities for the participation of professional personnel in a stipend activity shall be reviewed during the annual evaluation of the program.

**Commented [RC27]:** Model language from Fairfax.

3. —

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Amended: Upon approval by the School Board with effective date