

S T I L L W A T E R H I G H S C H O O L

Club & Organization Application

Club or Organization:

Sponsor:

Estimated Membership:

National Organization:

Goals or Purpose of organization:

Academic Justification of organization:

Action plan:

Please attach organizations constitution or guidelines

High School Principal

Date

Date

Superintendent

Date

Date

Student Organizations: School-Sponsored Student Organizations and Independent Student-Organized Groups

The board of education of the Stillwater school district is committed to the proposition that student participation in student activities and organizations can advance educational goals and otherwise be of benefit to students, and that the policies of this school district should further students' opportunities for participation. In allowing and furthering student activities and organizations, the board is mindful of the dictates of the United States Constitution and the federal Equal Access Act. This policy is adopted to implement these goals.

The School-Sponsored Student Organizations

1. The school district may sponsor student organizations that the board determines are in furtherance of and consistent with the educational objectives of the school district and directly related to the school district's curriculum ("school-sponsored student organizations"). All school-sponsored student organizations should be listed in the student handbooks and approved by the board of education prior to the beginning of the school year. A list of school-sponsored organizations should be distributed to parents at the time of enrollment.
2. School-sponsored student organizations shall be considered to be directly related to the school district's curriculum if they are (a) an extension, expansion, or application of material taught in a class; or (b) part of or an adjunct to student government, carrying out special projects or responsibilities.
3. School-sponsored student organizations shall have a faculty sponsor whose teaching field, education, background, or other expertise is reasonably related to the purpose and goals of the group, and who shall receive extra-duty compensation.
4. Application for school district sponsorship of school-sponsored student organizations shall be made by the proposed faculty sponsor and at least ten (10) students who intend to participate in the organization. Each proposed student organization will submit its membership requirements, organizational structure, and provisions of a constitution or other document setting out organizational purpose and structure, subject to approval by the superintendent of schools.
5. After the proposed organization and its constitution have received preliminary approval from the superintendent, the board of education shall review and approve or disapprove the organization for sponsorship based on the standards set out in this policy and based on an opinion rendered by the school district's legal counsel stating that the proposed organization meets the standards of this policy.
6. Copies of the by-laws, constitution, budget, and other relevant materials of school-sponsored student organizations should be available in the principal's office.

Independent Student Organized Groups

The district shall make facilities available for meeting of independent student-organized groups in grades 6-12 (that is, students' groups in grades 6-12 that are not officially sponsored by the school district as stated in the above section) subject to the following provisions. It is the intent of the school district to create a limited open forum under the federal Equal Access Act for independent student-organized groups pursuant to this policy.

1. Meetings of independent student organized groups may be held only during any non-instructional time, including before and after school, during lunch hour (if there are no classes being conducted during the lunch hour), or other non-instructional times. No student may attend a meeting when he or she has a scheduled class or is required by school rules or schedules to be elsewhere.
2. All meetings shall be student-initiated and open to all students in the school. All student attendance at independent student-organized group meetings shall be voluntary.
3. No meeting may include any activity that is unlawful or that materially and substantially interferes with the orderly conduct of educational activities within the school.
4. An adult monitor, who may or may not be a school employee, shall be present at all meetings. A school employee shall be present only in the capacity of monitor and may not participate in any form or fashion in the meetings.
5. Independent student-organized groups may invite outside speakers to their meetings, but no non-school persons may direct, control, or regularly attend meetings.
6. If students wish to meet in independent student-organized groups under this policy, they must file with the building principal a request to meet that lists (a) the room in which they wish to meet and time during which they will meet; (b) the name of one student who will serve as the contact between the group and the school authorities; and (c) the monitor who will be present. The principal shall approve a meeting if it meets the requirements of this policy and shall notify the student contact person of the approval or, if it does not meet the requirements of this policy, reasons for disapproval within two days of the submission of the request to meet. Once permitted to do so, an independent student-organized group may continue meeting for the remainder of the school year, unless it subsequently violates this or any other school policy.
7. In assigning meeting rooms to student organizations, the school shall not arbitrarily discriminate between or among school-sponsored and independent organizations. However, in assigning meeting rooms, the school may consider the number of persons expected to attend and the needs of the organization.
8. Meetings of independent student-organized groups may be announced by notices posted on bulletin boards in the school. Such notices may contain only the name of the organization; the date, time, and place of the meeting; and a brief identification of the subject of the meeting or a list of agenda items.
9. It is understood that participation in and the content and purposes of independent student-organized group meetings are either approved or disapproved by the school district. The school district is neutral as to the content of these meetings.