



BOARD ADMINISTRATIVE RULE

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Student Activities: School Clubs/Organizations and Student Organizations	JJ	5/13/09
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RATIONALE/OBJECTIVE:

The Cobb County School District (District) recognizes that extracurricular activities are an important part of school culture. School clubs and student organizations offer students an opportunity to learn and expand their knowledge base and to develop leadership skills and skills for working within a group.

RULE:

Social fraternities and sororities for students shall not be permitted in District schools, nor shall activities or initiations connected with such groups be allowed in the schools. Teacher sponsorship of such organizations is prohibited.

A. GENERAL PROVISIONS:

The following provisions apply to schools at all three levels: elementary, middle and high school:

1. DEFINITIONS:

a. School Club:

School clubs are comprised of students who wish to organize and meet for common goals, objectives, or purposes and which are directly under the sponsorship, direction and control of the school, including any activities reasonably related to such clubs and organizations, excluding competitive interscholastic activities or events. Specifically, all curriculum related student groups and all faculty-led non-curriculum related student groups which do not hold or espouse any particular religious, political, or philosophical beliefs.

b. Student organization:

Student-initiated, student-led non-curriculum related student groups, including all groups which hold or espouse any particular religious, political, or philosophical beliefs.

c. School Support Organization:

Parent-teacher association (PTA/PTSA), booster clubs, and school foundations.

2. Parent/Guardian Notification/Consent:

a. Notification:

(1) The District Student Code of Conduct (Rules [JICDA-E](#), [JICDA-M](#), [JICDA-H](#)) shall include information regarding school clubs and student organizations.

(2) School-produced student handbooks, other school-provided information and/or school Websites (which may be accessed at www.cobbk12.org) should include the following regarding each school club and student organization, as defined above. This information should also be available in the school's administrative office and should be updated during the school year. Specifically, each school club and student organization's:

- (a) Name;
- (b) Mission or purpose;
- (c) Name/names of the school club's faculty advisor(s) or student organization's contact(s); and
- (d) A description of past or planned activities.

b. Consent:

Parents/guardians may decline permission for their child (under the age of 18) to participate in a school club by completing the appropriate section of [Form JICDA-3](#) (Receipt of Parent Information Guide) and returning the Form to the Principal or designee.

3. The parent/guardian must submit written permission to the Principal or designee specifically stating that his/her child (under the age of 18) may participate in a new school club started during the school year.

B. MIDDLE SCHOOL AND HIGH SCHOOL:

The following additional provisions apply to middle and high schools:

1. General Guidelines:

The following directives shall be observed with regard to the activities of school clubs/organizations and student organizations:

a. Hazing: School clubs and student organizations shall not use hazing or degradation of individual dignity as a form of initiation.

b. Sponsors:

- (1) The Principal shall assign faculty members to sponsor and coordinate activities of school clubs.
- (2) The Principal shall not designate anyone as a sponsor, coordinator, or coach of a student organization which is not a school club. However, the Principal shall designate a District employee as an agent of the school to assure that the use of school facilities by student organizations which are not school clubs is in keeping with the procedures of the school. The agent shall not participate in any way in meetings or activities of the student organization.
- (3) Non-school persons may not direct, conduct, control, or regularly attend activities of student organizations.
- (4) Non-school persons may regularly attend and assist with school clubs under the direction and control of the faculty sponsor.

c. Privileges:

Student organizations and school clubs shall be afforded the same privileges on campuses including, but not limited to:

- (1) Use of school rooms for meetings and activities.
- (2) Posting of notices concerning the student organization on designated school bulletin boards, if such boards exist. Materials which are to be posted on the designated bulletin board must be approved by the Principal or designee to ensure that the materials are not libelous, obscene or disruptive, and that the materials do not advocate, promote or depict illegal substances or activities. The Principal or designee must either approve or reject the materials within 72 hours of receipt.
- (3) Use of public address systems for announcements concerning organization meetings and activities. The use of the public address systems for philosophical or advocacy statements shall not be allowed.
- (4) Coverage in school newspapers and yearbooks.
- (5) These privileges shall not include access to any other signs or display areas inside or outside the school building.
- (6) Except as provided in Section C, nothing in this Rule shall be construed to give any group that is not a school club or student organization access to the school facilities described in this Section 1.c.

d. School clubs and student organizations that wish to distribute literature on campus must comply with the requirements of District Administrative [Rule ICFA](#) (Curriculum and Course Guides).

2. Student Organizations:

a. Students may initiate the formation of student organizations and may apply for use of school facilities through the Principal or designee.

b. Finances:

Funds collected and used by student organizations which are not school clubs must

not be handled as part of the school financial procedures or accounted for through the school books.

C. SCHOOL SUPPORT ORGANIZATIONS:

School support organizations shall be permitted to announce the time and place of general membership meetings on the school's public address system and on signs or display areas outside the school building.

Adopted: 7/27/78

Reclassified an Administrative Rule: 9/1/04

Revised: 4/13/83; 8/8/84; 5/23/91; 6/27/91; 5/28/92; 10/13/93; 1/11/06; 7/13/06; 5/13/09