

USE OF MIDDLE AND HIGH SCHOOL FACILITIES BY STUDENTS FOR THE PURPOSE OF CONDUCTING NONCURRICULUM-RELATED MEETINGS - EQUAL ACCESS

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF BROWARD COUNTY, FLORIDA SHALL PROVIDE AN OPPORTUNITY DURING NONINSTRUCTIONAL TIME FOR MIDDLE SCHOOL, AND HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS TO ORGANIZE MEETINGS TO DISCUSS SUBJECT MATTER NOT DIRECTLY RELATED TO THE SCHOOL CURRICULUM,.

AUTHORITY: F. S. 230.22 (1) (2)
PUBLIC LAW 98-377 (EQUAL ACCESS LAW)
EQUAL ACCESS ACT OF 1984

Policy Approved: 5/15/86

RULES

Middle school and high school students may be provided meeting room facilities in district middle schools and high schools to discuss issues not directly related to school curriculum, subject to the following procedures and conditions:

1. Requests to use school facilities for such purposes must be in writing and initiated by students who are enrolled in that facility. Written requests from parents or other nonschool people must be denied. The request(s) should state the student's name, the purpose of the meeting, the requested starting time for the meeting and the number of students and guests that will attend. Said request(s) will be submitted by the student(s) to the affected principal at least seven (7) school days in advance.
2. The facilities may be utilized by students before and after the official school day. For purposes of this policy, school day shall be defined as the opening and closing times for each school as listed on the official Board list adopted by the Board each school year, and shall include any employee planning day as listed on the Board-adopted school calendar. on said planning days, noncurriculum clubs may meet during the daytime. Such meetings may only be held on days when the affected school(s) are in session as determined by the official School Board calendar. The Superintendent shall print and distribute a list of noncurriculum clubs.
3. Students in noncurriculum clubs may utilize the school's public address system and/or bulletin board space to announce their meeting if the principal allows curricular student clubs the same privileges. Each such announcement or notice will clearly state that the school, in offering the physical space to the group, is not promoting, endorsing, or otherwise sponsoring the non-curriculum-related group.
4. All such meetings must be initiated, conducted and controlled by students. However, nonschool people, if invited by the affected students, may attend said meetings but not on a regular basis.
5. The attendance of students at such meetings is strictly voluntary. Furthermore, neither the school nor its employees may sponsor/promote these noncurriculum-related student meetings.
6. Such use shall not be denied on the basis of the number of participants attending such meetings, except that numbers of attendees may not exceed the FISH capacity of the assigned room, nor may use be denied on the basis of the content of the presentations relative to religious, political or philosophical tenets being expounded; however, student groups that materially or substantially interfere with orderly conduct of educational activities can be excluded.
7. It is the responsibility of the affected building principal to provide supervision for these meetings. The principal shall attempt to procure an instructional employee to provide supervision through a request for volunteers. One supervisor may monitor several meetings in a large room. The Board authorizes the payment of funds to procure an employee to provide supervision if necessary. Employees providing supervision may not participate in said meetings other than to enforce order and discipline. A principal or his/her designee must be in the building while students are meeting.
8. The principal has the authority to determine the location assigned to the requesting group. Space should be allocated on a first-come, first-served basis.
9. All meetings allowed for under this policy must be open to all students without regard to race, religion, sex or national origin.

AUTHORITY: F. S. 230.22 (1) (2)
PUBLIC LAW 98-377
EQUAL ACCESS ACT OF 1984
RULES AMENDED: 4/15/86; 5/1/86
E.R. 87-06, 8/7/86

Amended Rules Approved: 9/25/86