

ORGANIZATIONS: ASSOCIATIONS

School Clubs and Societies

These will be recognized as authorized school organizations if they are organized by the school, sponsored by school personnel; composed completely of current student body members, hold their meetings at school, have a democratic plan for the selection of members, establish aims which are educational, of school interest or community interest and meet all those conditions set forth in this policy for recognized school-sponsored organizations. School-sponsored organizations shall be directed by a faculty adviser appointed by the board.

No school-sponsored organization shall practice any form of initiation or pre-initiation activities that might be classified as "hazing." Faculty advisors shall be responsible for enforcing this policy.

Secret Societies

State legislation prohibits within the public schools the existence of any organization which is not accessible to all members of that school's student body by their own free choice. Any such organization which seeks to organize and perpetuate itself by membership decided upon by the members exclusively is considered a fraternity, sorority, or secret society and may not legally exist with the schools. The superintendent is authorized to develop procedures for disciplinary action to be taken for violation of this policy.

Nonschool Clubs

All clubs not specifically authorized and organized by the schools are considered to be nonschool clubs and beyond the jurisdictions and responsibility of school authorities.

However, should these groups (non-school clubs) conduct activities on school property, at school-sponsored activities or as a carry-over into the school day or reflect on the reputation of the schools, the superintendent is authorized to develop procedures concerning disciplinary action to be taken.

Activities which are contrary to the best interest of the schools and reflect on the reputation of the schools are forbidden, including:

- A. Initiation and hazing on school grounds or at school-sponsored events;
- B. Indulging in group functions that violate local ordinances.

Nonschool clubs may become recognized school-sponsored clubs by conforming to the criteria for school clubs and societies stated earlier.

Date Reviewed: December 17, 2008
Adopted: February 18, 2009

Legal Reference: N.J.S.A 18A:42-5, -6 Certain student organizations declared harmful
And forbidden

Possible Cross References: 3453 School activity funds