

STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS

The Board of Cooperative Educational Services recognizes the educational values inherent in student participation in the extracurricular life of the school, and supports the concept of the formation of student groups for such purposes as building sound social relationships, participation in community service activities, regional, state and national competition, developing interests in an academic area, and gaining an understanding of the elements and responsibilities of good citizenship.

The District Superintendent of Schools, with the aid of students, faculty and administration, is charged with developing procedures for registering and regulating student groups or clubs. Such procedures shall ensure that the district will register any group organized for a purpose not prohibited by BOCES Board policy or by law, if such group submits a list of its members designated as contacts, a copy of its constitution and/or bylaws, and the constitution and bylaws of any off-campus organization with which it may be affiliated. Student groups may not restrict membership on the basis of race, sex, national origin or other arbitrary criteria.

The BOCES Board may prohibit the formation of any clubs, including fraternities or sororities, or any other secret society, whose deliberations and activities have caused or created, or are likely to cause or create, a disruption of or interference with the school program.

The BOCES Board establishes a “closed forum” rule for student organizations; that is, only extracurricular activities that are curriculum-related are permitted to organize and/or meet on school grounds. In order to qualify as “curriculum-related,” the relationship between the student groups and curriculum must meet one of the following criteria:

1. The subject matter of the group or club must actually be taught or will be taught in a regularly scheduled course.
2. The subject matter of the group must concern the body of courses as a whole.
3. Participation in the group is a course requirement.