

Lakeland Board of Education

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| Monitoring: Review: Annually, in November | Descriptor Term: Student Equal Access (Limited Public Forum) | Descriptor Code: 4.802 | Issued Date: 07/14/14 |
| | | Rescinds: 4.802 | Issued: 04/14/14 |

1 Schools may allow students to form clubs or groups that meet before, during, and/or after the school
2 day. Requests to form such clubs or groups shall not be denied based upon the religious nature or
3 beliefs of proposed club or group. If permitted, school administrators shall ensure that all clubs and
4 groups have the same abilities to access facilities and advertise their meetings.^{1,2,3,5}

5 No funds shall be expended by the school for any such meeting beyond the incidental costs associated
6 with providing meeting space. Groups meeting under this policy may be required to pay a reasonable
7 fee for compensating school personnel in the supervision of the activity.

8 No student may be compelled to attend or participate in a meeting under this policy.

9 A student or a group of students who wish to conduct a meeting under this policy must make a formal
10 request of the principal at least three days prior to the proposed date.

11 The principal shall approve the meeting if he/she determines that:

- 12 1. The meeting is voluntary and student-initiated;
- 13 2. There is no sponsorship of the meeting or its content by the school, the Board, or its employees;
- 14 3. The meeting will not materially and substantially interfere with the orderly conduct of the
15 school's educational activities or conflict with other previously scheduled meetings;
- 16 4. Employees of the district are to be present in a non-participatory monitoring capacity; however,
17 no employee shall be required to attend in this capacity if the content of the meeting is contrary
18 to the beliefs of the employee; and
- 19 5. Non-school persons will not direct, control or regularly attend.

20 **SCHOOL SPONSORED EVENTS⁴**

21 If the Board or a school principal authorizes an event at which a student is to speak, a limited public
22 forum shall be established for such student speakers. The appropriate administrators shall ensure that:

- 23 1. The forum is provided in a manner that does not discriminate against a student's voluntary
24 expression of a religious viewpoint, if any, on an otherwise permissible subject;
- 25 2. There is an appropriate method of selecting student speakers which is based on neutral criteria;
- 26 3. Student speakers do not engage in speech that is obscene, vulgar, offensively lewd, indecent or

- 1 promotes illegal drug use.
- 2 To the extent possible and practical, prior to events in which students will speak, notice shall be
- 3 provided orally and/or in writing that the student's speech does not reflect the endorsement,
- 4 sponsorship, position, or expression of the Board and its employees.
- 5 Beginning with the 2015-2016 school year, notice of this policy shall be provided in student
- 6 handbooks and staff handbooks.

Legal References

1. 20 U.S.C.A § 4071
2. *Westside Community Schools v. Mergens*, 496 U.S. 226 (1990)
3. TCA 49-6-2904
4. TCA 49-6-1803
5. TCA 49-6-1805