

Franklin County Board of Education

Monitoring: Review: Annually, in May	Descriptor Term: Student Clubs and Organizations	Descriptor Code: 6.702	Issued Date: 04/11/16
		Rescinds: 6.702	Issued: 10/11/01

1 Student organizations are an extension of the academic curriculum and are intended to complement the
2 basic instructional program.

3 The principal, in cooperation with the school's leadership team, shall approve all clubs and
4 organizations within the school. Application must be completed and reviewed by the principal and
5 leadership team. If the club is approved at the school level, the application is forwarded to the director
6 of schools for final approval and designation as either an academic or non-academic club/organization.

7 If the application is not approved at the school level, the faculty advisor may appeal the decision to the
8 director of schools within fifteen (15) school days after receipt of the principal's decision. The director
9 of schools will review the appeal and other information deemed appropriate and issue a written
10 decision within fifteen (15) school days after the receipt of the appeal.

11 The principal shall notify the parents or legal guardians of all clubs and organizations available to
12 students by prominently displaying the information in the school's annually distributed student
13 handbook or equivalent that contains school policies and procedures and on the school's website. The
14 list shall include:

- 15 1. The names of the clubs and organizations, including any abbreviations or acronyms;
- 16
- 17 2. The mission and purpose of the clubs and organizations;
- 18
- 19 3. All financial requirements associated with membership in the club or organizations; and
- 20
- 21 4. Notification that no school shall permit a student to become a member or participate in any
- 22 activities of a club or organization without written communication from the student's parent or
- 23 legal guardian approving the student's membership or participation. The written
- 24 communication must be signed and dated by the parent or legal guardian.

25 One or more staff members will serve as faculty advisors of each activity and will attend all meetings.
26 Each advisor will evaluate the activity and make recommendations concerning changes, continuance,
27 or deletion from the school's activity program. The faculty advisor will also ensure that all applicable
28 Board policies, administrative procedures, and school rules are followed.

29 An approved copy of the mission/purpose/aims, goals/objectives, and constitution for each
30 organization will be kept on file in the principal's office.

1 Academic clubs serve as an extension of the school's regular curriculum. To be approved as an
2 academic club, the following requirements must be met:

- 3 a. The subject matter of the club is taught in a regularly offered course at the school;
- 4
- 5 b. The subject matter of the club concerns the body of courses at the school as a whole; or
- 6
- 7 c. Participation in the club results in academic credit for a course at the school.
- 8

9 Non-academic clubs shall not be deemed to be school-sponsored or endorsed and must satisfy the
10 following criteria:

- 11 a. Student attendance must be voluntary;
- 12
- 13 b. The club or activity must be student-initiated, student-directed, and student-led;
- 14
- 15 c. There is no sponsorship of the club or activity by the district, school, or any school employee;
- 16
- 17 d. The club or activity does not materially and substantially interfere with the orderly conduct of
- 18 instructional activities in the school;
- 19
- 20 e. Individuals not affiliated with the school either as an employee or student may not direct,
- 21 control, conduct or regularly attend club meetings or an activity; and
- 22
- 23 f. The club or activity has a lawful purpose.

24 The principal shall designate each non-academic club as a service, honorary, interest, religious,
25 political, and/or sports club in accordance with the following definitions:

- 26 a. Service club. Club designed to provide genuine functions of service to the school and/or
- 27 community.
- 28
- 29 b. Honorary club. Club designed to grant membership to students on the basis of achievement in
- 30 attaining openly published standards in defined areas of school life.
- 31
- 32 c. Interest club. Club organized in any area that may offer valuable experiences supplementary to
- 33 education programs.
- 34
- 35 d. Religious club. Club whose purpose is to promote religion, that espouse a specific religious
- 36 point of view and/or sponsored or affiliated with community or national religious clubs.
- 37
- 38 e. Political club. Club that espouse and/or promote a particular political viewpoint.
- 39

1 f. Sports club. Club for student sport and other athletic activities that are not official school-
2 sponsored sports.

3 The principal may revoke recognition of any student club/organization for failure to comply with
4 Board policy and administrative procedures. A decision revoking recognition may be appealed to the
5 director of schools. All appeals must be made in writing to the director of schools within fifteen (15)
6 school days after receipt of the principal's decision.

7 The director of schools will review the appeal and other information deemed appropriate and issue a
8 written decision within fifteen (15) school days after the receipt of the appeal.

9 The director of schools shall approve all requirements imposed by clubs which have restricted
10 membership.

11 The nature of any initiation shall be outlined and presented in writing to the club's faculty advisor and
12 the principal of the school for approval prior to the actual initiation. Hazing by students acting alone or
13 with others is strictly prohibited. Any organization which permits an initiation to go beyond the scope
14 of activities planned and previously approved will be suspended until reinstated by the director of
15 schools.¹

16 Sororities, fraternities, and all secret organizations are prohibited.

Legal References

1. TCA 49-2-120; TCA 49-6-3401