



# ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURE

SAN DIEGO UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

NO: 6250

PAGE: 1 OF 3

CATEGORY: Student Rights and Responsibilities

EFFECTIVE: 10-02-84

SUBJECT: Equal Access for Student Meetings

REVISED: 9-14-99

## A. PURPOSE AND SCOPE

1. To outline administrative procedures governing secondary students' access to and use of district property during lunch and after school for meetings other than student club meetings or activities under the Civic Center Act.
2. **Related Procedures:**
  - Student free speech ..... 6210
  - School clubs, general ..... 6240
  - Civic center use of buildings, grounds, and equipment ..... 9205
3. Individual student rights and responsibilities under the First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution and California state law are covered in Procedure 6210.

## B. LEGAL AND POLICY BASIS

1. **Reference:** Board policy: H-5000, H-5100, H-5150, H-5400, H-6000, H-8650, K-4000, K-4010, K-4020, K-6500; Board minutes 10-2-84; Federal Equal Access Act, Title 20, United States Code Sections 4071 *et seq*; Education Code Sections 40040 *et seq*.
2. **District Policy.** The district has adopted the regulations and guidelines outlined in this procedure to implement the Equal Access Act as enacted by Congress in 1984. The intent of this procedure is to allow secondary school students to meet on their campuses for a limited open forum for religious, political, or philosophical discussions. Implementation of the Equal Access Act does not signify district sanction or endorsement of any particular religious, philosophical, or political belief discussed in these limited open forums.
3. Nothing herein shall be construed to limit the authority of the school, its agents, or employees to maintain order and discipline on school premises, to protect the well-being of students and faculty, and to ensure that attendance of students at meetings is voluntary.

## C. GENERAL

1. **Originating Office.** Suggestions or questions concerning this procedure should be directed to the Race/Human Relations and Guidance, Student Support Services.
2. **Definitions**
  - a. **Limited open forum:** The allowing by a secondary school of nonschool groups to meet in school classrooms or buildings during noninstructional time.



- i. No district funds beyond the incidental cost of providing the space for student-initiated meetings shall be spent. However, the meeting may be publicized in the same manner as school clubs (e.g., student bulletin, bulletin boards).
- j. No school agent or employee shall be compelled to attend if the content of the speech at the meeting is contrary to the beliefs of the agent or employee.
- k. Meetings shall otherwise be lawful.
- l. Groups of students shall not be required to have any specified numerical size.
- m. The students shall leave the classroom in a clean, orderly, and secure manner after their meeting.

#### 5. **Responsibilities**

- a. **Students** of secondary schools in the district who wish to conduct a meeting shall make written application with their site principal for such a meeting. Students must indicate that a credentialed staff person from that site has volunteered to attend the meeting. **Note:** While attending this meeting, the adult is not in paid status, nor acting as an agent of the school district.

Students may attend a meeting only at their school of attendance. Information concerning the student meeting is subject to Procedure 6210, "Student Free Speech."

- b. **The site principal** shall allow requesting students to meet, provided the conditions in C.4. are met.

#### **D. IMPLEMENTATION** (See Section C.)

#### **E. FORMS AND AUXILIARY REFERENCES**

#### **F. REPORTS AND RECORDS**

#### **G. APPROVED BY**



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Chief of Staff, Terrance L. Smith  
For the Superintendent of Public Education