

POLICY

NORTHVALE BOARD OF EDUCATION

PUPILS
5842/page 1 of 2
Equal Access of Pupil
Organizations

5842 EQUAL ACCESS OF PUPIL ORGANIZATIONS

The Board of Education will permit the use of school facilities by organizations of secondary school pupils during pupil activity periods. No group of secondary pupils, regardless of the size of the group, will be denied an opportunity to meet on the basis of the religious, political, philosophical, or other content of the speech at their meeting.

An application for permission to meet on school premises shall be made to the Superintendent or designee, who shall grant permission provided that he or she determines that:

1. The activity has been initiated by pupils;
2. Attendance at the meeting is voluntary;
3. No agent or employee of the district will promote, lead, or participate in the meeting;
4. The meeting is for a lawful purpose;
5. The meeting does not materially and substantially interfere with the orderly conduct of instructional activities in the school; and
6. Nonschool persons do not direct, conduct, control, or regularly attend the activity.

A pupil-initiated group granted permission to meet on school premises shall be subject to the same rules and regulations that govern the meetings of pupil organizations sponsored by this Board, except as provided by this policy. Participation in a pupil-initiated meeting must be available to all pupils who wish to attend and cannot be denied on the basis of a pupil's race, color, creed, religion, gender, national origin, disability, or social or economic status. The Board will not permit the organization of a fraternity, sorority, or secret society.

A teaching staff member shall be assigned to attend a pupil-initiated meeting in a custodial capacity and shall not participate in the activity. No teaching staff member shall be compelled to attend a pupil-initiated meeting if the content of the speech at the meeting is contrary to his or her beliefs.



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PUPILS
5842/page 2 of 2
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The building principal may take such actions as may be necessary to maintain order and discipline on school premises and to protect the safety and well-being of pupils and staff members.

39 U.S.C.A. 1701 et seq.

Adopted: 28 September 1998

