

INSTRUCTION – EQUAL ACCESS

The School Board of Independent School District No. 31 desires to implement the Equal Access Act by creating a limited open forum during which all noncurriculum related student groups shall have equal access and a fair opportunity to conduct meetings.

The following guidelines are needed to implement and administer the limited open forum:

I. Access to Limited Open Forum

- A. The times early in the day when teachers are on duty before the student day begins and late in the day when teachers are on duty after the student day ends on days during which classes are in session shall be set aside for a limited open forum.
- B. Noncurriculum related student groups that desire to conduct meetings during the limited open forum shall make a request, in writing, to the building principal for permission to conduct a meeting during the forum. The request shall estimate the number of students expected to be in attendance at the meeting and the dates on which the group desires to meet. The request shall also list any special equipment that may be needed, such as a projector or microphone.
- C. Upon receipt of such a request, the principal shall endeavor to find a suitable room for the group to use and arrange for proper supervision of the meeting by an agent or employee of the school district.
- D. In the event that there is an insufficient number of rooms available or an insufficient number of supervisors available on a particular day, noncurriculum related student groups shall be given access on a first-come, first-serve basis. The principal shall attempt to provide facilities on alternative days to other noncurriculum related student groups with the goal of providing each group with equal access and a fair opportunity to meet.
- E. No group shall be discriminated against or denied access on the basis of the religious, political, philosophical or other content of the students' speech at such meeting.
- F. The administration may adopt additional rules, as it deems necessary, to implement this policy and to accommodate student requests.

II. Use of Facilities by Students

- A. This policy only applies to students in grades 7 through 12.
- B. The number of students in a particular group will be limited to the safe capacity of the room.

- C. Students meeting during the limited open forum shall not engage in any activity that is illegal, dangerous or disruptive. Illegal, dangerous or disruptive behavior can be grounds for discipline of an individual student and groups for a particular group to be denied access during the limited open forum.
- D. No group shall be allowed to meet during the limited open forum without supervision by an agent or employee of the school district.
- E. All meetings of noncurriculum related student groups, during the limited open forum, shall be voluntary and student initiated.

III. Regulation of Limited Open Forum

- A. No public funds shall be spent for the benefit of noncurriculum related student groups meeting during the limited open forum beyond the cost of providing space and supervision for meetings.
- B. Neither the school district, its agents or employees shall promote, lead or participate in any meeting except in a supervisory capacity.
- C. No school agent or employee shall be compelled to supervise a meeting of a noncurriculum related student group during the limited open forum if the content of the speech at that meeting is contrary to the beliefs of that agent or employee.
- D. Nonschool persons are not allowed to direct, conduct or control activities of noncurriculum related student groups during the limited open forum.
- E. Nonschool persons are not allowed to meet with noncurriculum related student groups during the limited open forum unless permission is obtained in advance from the building principal.
- F. Nonschool persons are not allowed to meet with noncurriculum related student groups during the limited open forum more frequently than once per academic quarter.
- G. Nonschool persons can be denied access to school district property if their behavior is, or reasonably threatens to be illegal, dangerous or disruptive.
- H. This policy applicable to the limited forum shall have no application to activities that occur inside the limited open forum.