

**JHC-R School Clubs and Student Organizations**

7/1/22

GSBA Reference: JHC (Student Organizations)

**RATIONALE/OBJECTIVE:**

The Cobb County School District (District) recognizes that extracurricular activities are an important part of school culture. School clubs and student organizations offer students an opportunity to learn and expand their knowledge base and to develop leadership skills and skills for working within a group.

**RULE:**

Social fraternities and sororities for students shall not be permitted in District schools, nor shall activities or initiations connected with such groups be allowed in the schools. Teacher sponsorship of such organizations is prohibited.

**A. GENERAL PROVISIONS:****1. DEFINITIONS:****a. School Club:**

School clubs are comprised of students who wish to organize and meet for common goals, objectives, or purposes and which are directly under the sponsorship, direction and control of the school, including any activities reasonably related to such clubs and organizations, excluding competitive interscholastic activities or events. Specifically, all curriculum-related student groups and all faculty-led non-curriculum related student groups which do not hold or espouse any particular religious, political, or philosophical beliefs.

**b. Student Organization:**

Student-initiated, student-led non-curriculum related student groups, including all groups which hold or espouse any particular religious, political, or philosophical beliefs shall be allowed equal access in accordance with the requirements of the Equal Access Act. (see 20 USC §4071)

**c. School Support Organization:**

Recognized parent/teacher association, booster clubs, and school foundations.

**2. ACCESS AND COMMUNICATIONS:**

Student organizations and school clubs shall be afforded the same privileges on campuses including, but not limited to:

- a. Use of school rooms for meetings and activities.
- b. Posting of notices concerning the student organization on designated school bulletin boards, if such boards exist. Materials which are to be posted on the designated bulletin board must be approved by the principal or designee to ensure that the materials are not libelous, obscene, or disruptive and that the materials do not advocate, promote or depict illegal substances or activities. The principal or designee must either approve or reject the materials within 72 hours of receipt.
- c. Use of public address systems for announcements concerning organization meetings and activities. The use of the public address systems for philosophical or advocacy statements shall not be allowed.
- d. Coverage in school newspapers and yearbooks.
- e. These privileges shall not include access to any other signs or display areas inside or outside the school building.
- f. Except as provided in section E, nothing in this Rule shall be construed to give any group that is not a school club or student organization access to the school facilities described in this section.

**B. SPONSORS/MONITORS:**

**1. School Club:**

- a. The principal shall assign faculty members to sponsor and coordinate activities of school clubs.
- b. Non-school persons may regularly attend and assist with school clubs under the direction and control of the faculty sponsor.

**2. Student Organization:**

- a. The principal shall not designate anyone as a sponsor, coordinator, or coach of a student organization. Further, no faculty member shall be compelled to be a monitor on a student organization. However, the principal shall approve a faculty member as a monitor of the school to assure that the use of school facilities by student organizations is in keeping with the procedures of the school. The monitor shall not participate in any way in meetings or activities of the student organization.
- b. Non-school persons may not direct, conduct, control, or regularly attend activities of student organizations.

**C. PARENT/GUARDIAN NOTIFICATION/CONSENT:**

**1. School Club:**

**a. Notification:**

- (1) The District Student Code of Conduct (Administrative Rule JCDA-R) shall include information regarding school clubs and student organizations.
- (2) School-produced student handbooks, other school-provided information and/or school Websites (which may be accessed at [www.cobbk12.org](http://www.cobbk12.org)) should include the following regarding each school club, as defined above. This information should also be available in the school's administrative office and should be updated during the school year. Specifically, each school club's:
  - (a) Name;
  - (b) Mission or purpose;
  - (c) Name/names of the school club's faculty advisor(s); and
  - (d) A description of past or planned activities.

**b. Consent:**

- (1) Parents/guardians may decline permission for their child (under the age of 18) to participate in a school club by completing the appropriate section of Form JCDA-3 (Receipt of Family Information Guide) and returning the Form to the Principal or designee.
- (2) The parent/guardian must submit written permission to the principal or designee specifically stating that his/her child (under the age of 18) may participate in a new school club started during the school year.

**2. Student Organization:**

**a. Notification:**

- (1) The District Student Code of Conduct (Administrative Rule JCDA-R) shall include information regarding school clubs and student organizations.
- (2) Each student organization will be responsible for providing information to all prospective participants. Specifically, this information must include the organization's:
  - (a) Name;
  - (b) Mission or purpose; and
  - (c) A description of past or planned activities.

**b. Consent:**

The parent/guardian must submit written permission to the principal or designee specifically stating that his/her child (under the age of 18) may participate in a student organization. This consent must be renewed each year.

**D. EXPECTATIONS:**

The following directives shall be observed with regard to the activities of school clubs and student organizations:

**1. Hazing:**

School clubs and student organizations shall not use hazing or degradation of individual dignity as a form of initiation.

2. **Literature Distribution:**

School clubs and student organizations that wish to distribute literature on campus must comply with the requirements of District Administrative Rule ICFA-R (Curriculum Guides and Course Outlines).

3. **Facility Use:**

Student organizations ~~and~~ may apply for use of school facilities through the principal or designee.

4. **Finances:**

Funds collected and used by student organizations must not be handled as part of the school financial procedures or accounted for through the school books.

**E. SCHOOL SUPPORT ORGANIZATIONS:**

School support organizations shall be permitted to announce the time and place of general membership meetings on the school's public address system and on signs or display areas outside the school building.

Adopted: 7/27/78

Revised: 4/13/83; 8/8/84; 5/23/91; 6/27/91; 5/28/92; 10/13/93

Reclassified an Administrative Rule: 9/1/04

Revised: 1/11/06; 7/13/06; 5/13/09

Revised and re-coded: 1/7/13 (Previously coded as Administrative Rule JJ)

Revised: 7/1/13; 7/25/16; 7/20/17; 7/1/22

Legal Reference

O.C.G.A. 20-2-705

Parental consent for participation in school clubs and organizations

O.C.G.A. 20-2-736

Student codes of conduct; distribution

20 USC 7905

Equal Access to Public School Facilities

20 USC 4071

Equal Access Act