

Instruction

Organizations/Associations/Clubs

Philosophy

The Board of Education believes that students will benefit from opportunities to organize and participate in clubs and organizations sponsored by the school district. These activities give students new or expanded skills and experiences, including but not limited to group dynamics, civic participation and life-long avocational activities. It is also recognized that a well-organized and expansive program promotes a positive sense of accomplishment among students and improves the overall climate in the schools.

The Superintendent shall develop general guidelines and processes for in-school student organizations. Such organizations and clubs will operate within the framework of the law, board policy, administrative rules and the parameters of the learning program.

As interest in new organizations and clubs develops, groups will be asked to follow an established approval process for the adoption of new groups. This process will consider the feasibility of the petitioned activity based on student interest, impact on existing programs in school and community and the budget implications of the new activity.

District participation in interscholastic organizations and clubs shall be subject to approval by the Board of Education. This shall include approval of membership in any leagues, associations, and conferences.

This policy applies to in-school organizations only. It is not intended to restrict the organization of students into groups which function apart from the school. However, students who engage in conduct off school grounds that constitutes a disciplinary offense under Board policy and/or state or federal law may be subject to disciplinary action.

Student Government

In order to encourage student participation in the various activities of school life and to provide opportunity for training in democratic processes, the elementary and secondary schools shall maintain and operate student councils.

The student council shall assist in improving the general welfare of all students and shall give students the opportunity to participate in the orderly workings of the democratic process.

Instruction

Organizations/Associations/Clubs (cont.)

Members of the student council shall be elected democratically by the student body of each school in accordance with administrative regulations. The rights and responsibilities of the council shall be clearly set forth in the administrative regulations. Faculty advisors for the student council will be appointed by the administration.

The student council shall not have authority to make policies for the district or regulations for the school. The student council shall have no authority to discipline students, including members of the council, other than to censure a member of the council pursuant to Robert's Rules of Order. However, a council may make recommendations to the administration on any topic of student concern.

Non-School Organizations:

All organizations not specifically authorized and organized by the school are considered to be non-school organizations and outside the responsibility of school authorities. The school district does not supervise such organizations or their activities, and makes no warranties or representations regarding their safety and/or appropriateness. However, as discussed above, students who engage in conduct off school grounds that constitutes a disciplinary offense under Board policy and/or state or federal law may be subject to disciplinary action.

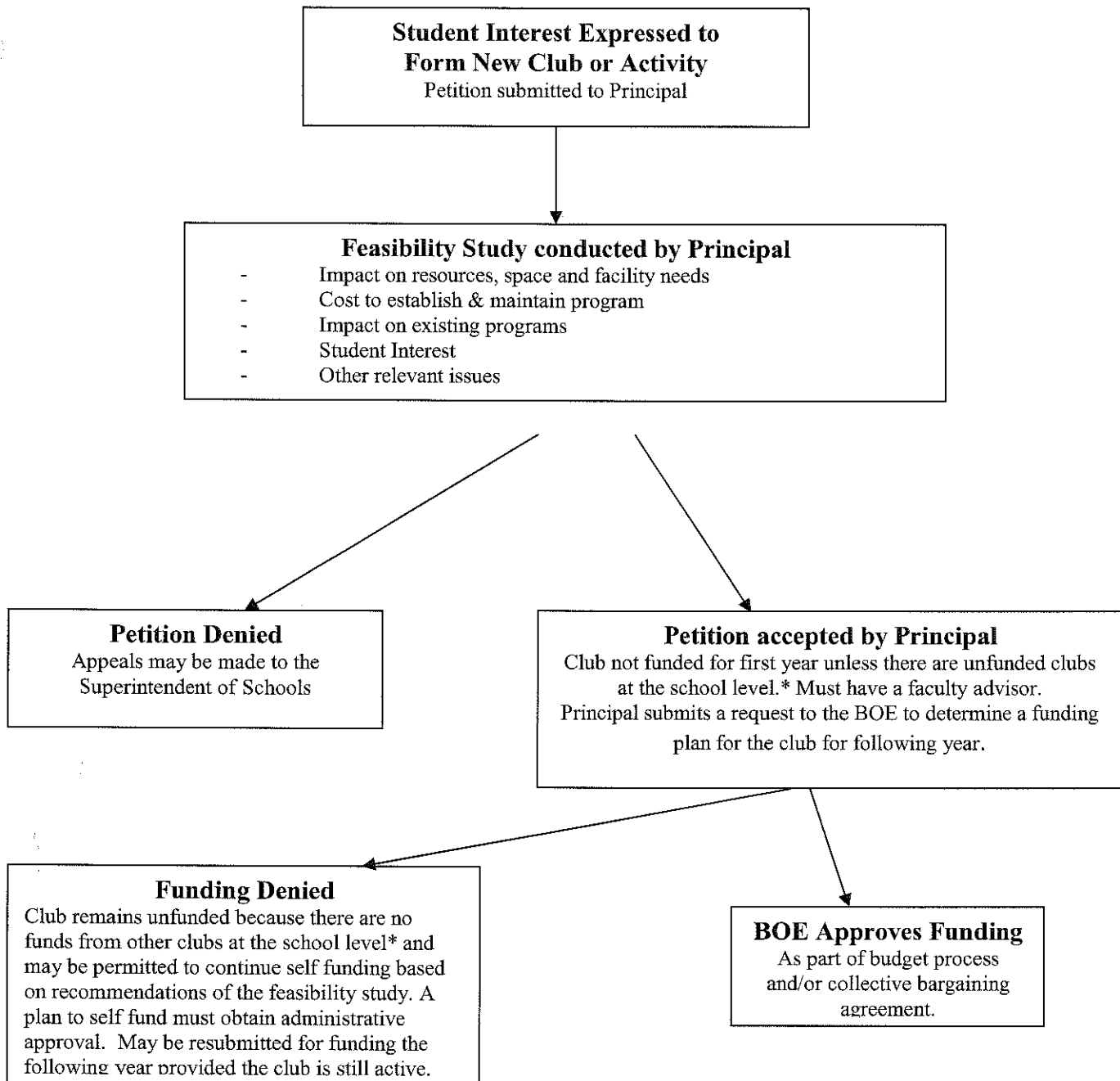
All student activities conducted on school property, at school-sponsored activities or as a carry-over into the school day are subject to the rules and regulations of the schools and the policies of the Board of Education, including but not limited to the policies and regulations regarding student discipline and adult supervision of students.

Activities which are contrary to the best interests of the school and reflect on the reputation of the school are forbidden, including:

1. initiation and hazing on the school grounds or at school-sponsored events.
2. indulging in group functions that violate federal, state or city laws or county ordinances.

Policy adopted: September 17, 1990
Policy revised: November 13, 2006
Policy reviewed: July 1, 2009

REVIEW PROCESS FOR ADOPTION OF CLUBS/ACTIVITIES OR NEW SPORTS TEAMS



- *1. The pre-set allotment budget for each school cannot be reduced.
2. New ATA club/activities to be added and a stipend paid in year one as long as the pre-set budget cap is not exceeded.
3. New ATA club/activities that are approved for 2014/2015 school year will be paid on a pro-rated basis as long as the pre-set cap is not exceeded.
4. No ATA club/activities would be paid retroactive if this policy change is approved.
5. If a "new" ATA is created from an old "ATA", the "old" ATA will be removed from the list of eligible ATA club/activities.
6. Should the dollar amount for stipends exceed the pre-set budget, the principal, the staff member, READ 10 President, Director of Student Learning, and Director of Finance and Operations will establish a priority for approval.

Approved: November 13, 2006
Reviewed: July 1, 2009
Revised: January 20, 2015

REVIEW PROCESS FOR ADOPTION OF NEW SPORTS TEAMS

Student Interest Expressed to Form New Sports Team
Petition submitted to Principal

Feasibility Study conducted by principal & Athletic Director

- student interest
- impact on school. Resources, space and facility needs
- cost to establish & maintain program
- impact on existing programs
- Title IX compliance
- Feeder programs
- Opponent availability
- CIAC sponsorship
- Impact on town & relationship with Parks & Recreation Departments

Principal/AD Deny Petition
May petition to exist as a club/activity
Petition may be resubmitted the following year
Appeals may be made to the superintendent of Schools
Consideration of other options
(Co-ops, etc.)

Petition Initially Accepted
Principal submits petition with documentation to Superintendent

Superintendent Reviews Petition & Documentation

Superintendent Denies Petition
May petition to exist as a club/activity
Petition may be resubmitted the following year.

Superintendent Accepts Petition
Superintendent submits plan in budget process to the BOE to adopt and equitably fund.

BOE Reviews & Accepts Plan
As part of next year's budget
Year 1: Club Sport – unfunded by BOE followed by reevaluation of program by Principal & Athletic Director/BOE

Petition and Funding Denied by BOE
May petition to exist as a club/activity
Petition may be resubmitted the following year.

Petition Accepted/Funding Denied by BOE
Unfunded Varsity Sport status may be granted

Petition Accepted/Funding Granted
Funded Varsity sport Status
The normal transition would be:
Year 2: JV Season
Year 3: Varsity Season
Note: at the conclusion of each season, a presentation is made to the BOE updating the status of teams

Unfunded Status Not Granted
May petition to exist as a Club/Activity

Unfunded Varsity Sport Status Granted
Decision based on recommendations from the feasibility study. May continue to compete as a club or self fund to continue transition to varsity sport status. A plan to self fund must obtain administrative approval. Moved under Athletic Department. Must comply with Athletic Department rules and procedures.