

**BEND - LA PINE SCHOOL DISTRICT NO 1**  
**ADMINISTRATIVE REGULATIONS**  
**CODE: IGDAAR-AR**  
**DATED:**  
**REVISED:**  
**REVIEW DATE:**  
**REVIEWED BY:**  
**mw 12/29/99**

## **NONCURRICULUM-RELATED STUDENT MEETINGS AT SECONDARY SCHOOLS**

The Equal Access Act prohibits a public secondary school, as defined by state law, with a limited open forum from denying equal access to students who wish to conduct a meeting within that forum, on the basis of the religious, political or philosophical content of the speech at such meetings. A limited open forum exists and thus, the Equal Access Act applies, whenever a school grants an opportunity for one or more non-curriculum related student groups to meet on school premises during noninstructional time.

The high schools of this district are authorized to offer non-curriculum related student groups the opportunity to meet on school premises during non-instructional time. (Non-instructional time for noncurriculum-related student group meetings shall be set by the school administrator, and may occur before school, during the lunch period, during an activity period or after school). If such authority is granted, a limited open forum exists and student groups may not be denied access to meet on school premises during non-instructional times because of the religious, political or philosophical content of the speech at such meetings, provided that:

1. The meeting is voluntary and student-initiated;
2. There is no sponsorship of the meeting by the school, the district or its agents or employees.

("Sponsorship" includes the act of promoting, leading or participating in a meeting, but does not include assigning of a school employee to a meeting for custodial purposes only).

3. Employees or agents of the school or district may be present at religious meetings in a non-participatory capacity only. The school may assign staff for supervision.
4. The meeting does not materially and substantially interfere with the orderly conduct of educational activities within the school.
5. Nonschool persons may not direct, conduct, control or attend activities of such student groups.

This policy does not authorize the school or the district, its employees or agents to:

1. Influence the form or content of any prayer or other religious activity;

2. Require any person to participate in prayer or other religious activity.
3. Expend public funds beyond the incidental cost of providing the space for student-Initiated meetings.
4. Compel any school agent or employee to attend a meeting if the content of the speech at the meeting is contrary to the beliefs of the agent or employee;
5. Sanction meetings that are otherwise unlawful.

A school with a limited open forum shall not discriminate against a student group in its use of school media for announcements of meetings on the basis of the religious, political or philosophical content of the speech at the student group's meetings. Such meeting announcements shall be permitted in the same form as is permitted for the announcement of other noncurriculum-related student meetings.

Neither the Equal Access Act nor this policy applies to public elementary schools.

This policy shall not be construed to permit prayer, a "moment of silence" or the distribution of religious, political or philosophical materials, or printed or announced information of any other meetings or activities outside of the meetings authorized by the Equal Access Act and this policy.

Nothing in the Equal Access Act or this policy shall be construed to limit the authority of the school, the district, its agents or employees to maintain order and discipline on school premises, to protect the well being of students, faculty and staff and to assure that attendance of students at meetings is voluntary.