

RELATIONS WITH AFFILIATED SCHOOL ORGANIZATIONS

Affiliated school organizations are those non-profit organizations whose objective it is to promote the educational experiences of district students. These organizations include, but are not limited to, booster clubs, alumni groups, parent/teacher organizations, and educational foundations who work in conjunction with, but are separate from, the district. Affiliated school organizations are encouraged to obtain 501(c)(3) status so that community members may properly take tax deductions for donations to the organization.

The Board recognizes that the endeavors and objectives of affiliated school organizations can be a valuable means of stimulating interest and endorsement of the aims and achievements of the district. However, in using the name of the district or its schools and in organizing a group whose identity derives from a school(s) of this district, the affiliated school organization hereby shares responsibility with this Board for the welfare of participating students.

Affiliated school organizations desiring to use the name or offices of the district must obtain the approval of the Board as a prerequisite. Continued use of the school's name, logo, mascot, facilities, etc. is contingent upon compliance with all applicable Board policies and regulations.

Principals and staff members need to work closely with the officers of all affiliated school organizations to provide a sustained system of activities that increase and enhance the educational opportunities for students. The activities must be integrated and balanced in accordance with the total district educational program and district goals and objectives.

Plans, projects or activities proposed by an affiliated school organization must be evaluated and promoted in light of their stated contribution to the curricular as well as the extracurricular programs of the district. Careful consideration must be given to the total value provided to all students, rather than to specific elements such as teams and band participants. Care must be taken to avoid compromising or diluting the responsibility and authority of the Board.

By August 1, affiliated school organizations must submit to the Superintendent/designee their tentative goals and objectives along with their fund-raising plans for the next school year for review by the Board. Should the goals and objectives or fund-raising plans change during the school year, the Superintendent/designee is to be advised before any final revisions are made.

Affiliated school organizations that wish to construct anything permanent on school property must have the permission of the Board in advance of the construction project. The organization must provide the Board, in writing, proof of financial stability and that funds are available for the construction project.

Acceptance of donated equipment or materials may depend upon the compliance with, or experience related to, the Board's policy of standardized materials and equipment.

Affiliated school organizations must abide by all district policies and rules as well as the following:

1. Affiliated school organizations should not use the school's tax ID number.
2. Affiliated school organizations should not accept checks made out to the school and vice versa.
3. District officials should not have a leadership role in affiliated school organizations.
4. Fund-raising activities should not occur on school premises or during school hours unless permission has been given by the Superintendent/designee.
5. Documentation on ownership of property and fund-raising activities is required.
6. The use of the district name and emblems must be authorized.
7. Affiliated school organizations must submit their bylaws to the Superintendent for review as well as end-of-year reports on income, expenses, and balance sheets by June 30th of each year.
8. Donations to the district, in the form of cash or merchandise by affiliated school organizations may only be accepted by Board resolution.

If the Board finds that the affiliated school organization has taken actions not in compliance with its bylaws, or actions which the Board believes are inconsistent with the stated purpose of the organization, or actions that are contrary to the furtherance of the district's curricular and/or extracurricular programs, the Board may revoke the organization's status as "affiliated" with the district.

The Board shall offer the opportunity for any authorized school support entity to receive coverage under the district's liability insurance program to protect the entity against claims resulting from damage or injury resulting from any act or omission of any school-support entity. The entity shall pay for such coverage upon written notification from the Treasurer.

School employees and Board-approved school volunteers may not be directly compensated in any manner by district support organizations.

LEGAL REFS: O.R.C. §§3313.17; 3313.20; 3313.36; 3313.47
Ohio Ethics Commission Advisory Opinion 2008-01

Adopted: November 21, 2016
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