

**TEMECULA VALLEY CHARTER SCHOOL
Board Policy**

Section 1000 COMMUNITY RELATIONS

1010 STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS AND EQUAL ACCESS

Board Action: APPROVED

Effective Date: 09/16/2015

The Governing Board believes that student organizations reinforce the instructional program, give students practice in democratic self-government and provide social and recreational activities. Student organizations also serve to honor outstanding student achievement, enhance school spirit, and/or contribute to students' sense of belonging.

The Executive Director or designee shall establish criteria and a process for school sponsorship of student clubs.

While not directed at elementary school specifically, in accordance with provisions of the federal Equal Access Act, any TVCS student-initiated groups shall be given equal access to meet on school premises during non-instructional times without regard to their religious, political, philosophical or other speech content. (20 USC 4071)

All student clubs or groups shall have equal access to the school media, including the public address system, the school newspaper, and the school bulletin board, to announce meetings. The Executive Director or designee may inform students that certain groups are not school-sponsored.

No school shall deny equal access or a fair opportunity to meet to, or discriminate against, any group officially affiliated with the Boy Scouts of America, or with any other youth group listed as a patriotic society in Title 36 of the United States Code, for reasons based on the membership or leadership criteria or oath of allegiance to God and country. (20 USC 7905)

School Sponsorship

School-sponsored student organizations must be organized at the school, have a certificated advisor, be composed completely of current student body members and be approved by the Executive Director or designee in accordance with Governing Board policy. They shall hold the majority of their meetings at school and have a democratic plan for the selection of officers. Organization activities shall not conflict with the authority and responsibilities of school officials.

The Executive Director/Principal designee shall direct any group of students seeking recognition as a student organization to submit a Temecula Valley Charter School -approved application form which would include the following information:

1. Name of the organization and names of student contacts

2. A statement of the organization's purposes, objectives and activities

3. Name of staff sponsor, and a description of the function of staff adviser in the promotion, supervision and leadership of the group. The principal shall have final authority in determining the assignment and role of the staff adviser.

4. The proposed dates, times and location of meetings

5. Any special equipment to be used

6. A description of the qualifications for membership, if any

7. If a curriculum-related group, a statement of the relation of the club to the curriculum and/or instructional program

The Executive Director/Principal or designee shall establish school rules governing the meetings of both curriculum-related and non-curriculum groups, including but not limited to math groups, language groups, science groups, history groups, drama groups, music groups, art groups. Such rules may vary depending on the circumstances that apply, such as whether or not academic credit is given for participation in the group.

The Executive Director or designee shall not deny any student-initiated group access to school facilities during non-instructional time on the basis of religious, political, philosophical or any other content to be addressed at such meetings. Such meetings shall not interfere with regular school activities.

The Executive Director or designee shall identify the non-instructional time period(s) set aside for non-curriculum related student organization meetings before and after actual classroom instruction times. Meetings may also be held during the lunch hour.

The following criteria must be met for these meetings:

1. The meeting shall be voluntary and student-initiated.
2. There shall be no sponsorship of the meeting by the school or staff. The school or staff shall not promote, lead, or participate in a meeting. The assignment of a teacher, administrator, or other school employee to a meeting for custodial purposes shall not constitute sponsorship of the meeting.
3. Employees of the school shall be present at religious meetings only in a non-participatory capacity.
4. The meeting shall not materially and substantially interfere with the orderly conduct of educational activities within the school.

School staff may be assigned voluntarily to observe meetings for purposes of maintaining order and protecting student safety. Students shall leave the meeting place in a clean, orderly and secure condition after their meetings.

The Executive Director may deny the use of facilities to any groups that he/she believes will disrupt the school program or threaten the health and safety of students and staff.

Meetings held within the limited open forum shall entail no expenditure of public funds beyond the incidental cost of providing the meeting space.

Hazing

No student shall conspire to engage in hazing, participate in hazing, or commit any act that causes or is likely to cause bodily danger, physical harm, or personal degradation or disgrace resulting in physical or mental harm to any fellow student. Persons violating this regulation shall be subject to district discipline and penalties specified in law.