

371.1 EQUAL ACCESS

The Equal Access Act provides that no public secondary school receiving federal assistance and having a limited open forum may deny equal access to school district facilities by, or discriminate against, any students who wish to conduct a meeting within that limited open forum on the basis of the religious, political, philosophical or other content of the speech at such meetings. Therefore, the School District of Wisconsin Rapids will provide equal access to district facilities for any student-initiated group under the following conditions:

1. All meetings of such student groups must be voluntary and student initiated.
2. School district employees may not sponsor such meetings and non-school persons may not direct, conduct, control, or regularly attend the meetings. School employees may be present at student meetings to maintain order and discipline, but employees may not participate in such student meetings.
3. Such student meetings shall not materially or substantially interfere with the orderly conduct of the educational activities of the school.
4. The district shall not influence the form or content of any prayer or any other religious activities nor require any person to participate in prayer or other religious activities. School district employees shall not be required to supervise student meetings if the content of the speech at those meetings is contrary to the beliefs of the employee.
5. School district funds may not be spent on the student meetings beyond the incidental cost of providing space for such meetings.

Guidelines for use of school facilities under this policy shall be established by the administration, with the approval of the Board of Education.

LEGAL REF.: Equal Access Act (Title VII of Public Law 98-377)

CROSS REF.: 371.1-Rule, Guidelines for Equal Access
411, Discrimination and Harassment Prohibited

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