

## **371 STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS**

Student organizations have an important place in the educational program of our schools because, when properly organized and operated, they:

1. extend and reinforce the instructional program;
2. give students practice in democratic self-government;
3. build student morale and spirit of positive support for the school;
4. honor outstanding student achievement; and
5. provide wholesome social and recreational activities.

The following criteria are established to guide the professional staff and students in organizations:

1. School clubs and societies will be recognized as authorized school organizations if they are organized by the school, sponsored by school personnel, composed completely of current student body members, hold the majority of their meetings at school, have a democratic plan for the selection of members, establish aims which are educational, of school or community interest and meet all those conditions hereinafter set forth for recognized school-sponsored organizations.
2. Secret Societies - Student membership in secret school fraternities, sororities, and clubs is prohibited throughout the school district. The superintendent is authorized to develop procedures concerning disciplinary action to be taken for violation of this policy.
3. Non-School Clubs - All other clubs of a non-secret nature, whose membership is composed for the most part of students from one school, that are sponsored by other than school personnel, that meet outside school hours at places other than school, and whose aims are other than educational, or of school or community interest, are considered to be non-school clubs. Non-school clubs may become recognized school-sponsored clubs by conforming to the criteria for school clubs and societies stated above.

Non-school clubs are beyond the jurisdiction of school authorities. However, should they conduct activities contrary to the best interests of the school or reflect on the reputation of the school, the superintendent is authorized to develop procedures concerning disciplinary action to be taken when and where appropriate. Such activities include the following:

- a. Initiation and hazing on the school grounds or at school-sponsored events.
  - b. Indulging in group functions that violate city laws or county ordinances. This includes such activities as, but not limited to, underage drinking, illegal use of drugs, and acts of vandalism.
4. The same guidelines for non-school clubs and societies relating to initiation, hazing, or other activities covered under city laws or county ordinances applies to school clubs, societies, and all co-curricular activities.

The School District of Wisconsin Rapids does not discriminate in admission to any program or activity, standards and rules of behavior, disciplinary actions or facilities usage on the basis of gender, race, color, religion, national origin, ancestry, creed, pregnancy, marital or parental status, sexual orientation, or physical, mental, emotional, or learning disability or handicap. Discrimination complaints shall be processed in accordance with established procedures.

LEGAL REF.: Sections 118.13 Wisconsin Statutes  
120.13(1)  
120.44  
948.51  
PI 9.03, Wisconsin Administrative Code

CROSS REF.: 411-Rule, Student Discrimination and Harassment Complaint Procedures  
443 – Student Conduct policy

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