

MARION SCHOOL DISTRICT 60-3	NEPN Code: JJAB
STUDENT POLICIES & REGULATIONS	

EQUAL ACCESS

The Marion School Board hereby establishes a “limited open forum” within the meaning of the Federal Equal Access Act, (20USCA 4071-4074) for non-curriculum related student meetings for students attending Marion High School.

Student meetings pursuant to this policy:

1. Shall be voluntary and student initiated;
2. Shall not be sponsored by the District or it’s agents or employees;
3. May have employees or agents of the District present at such meetings only in a non-participatory capacity.
4. Shall not materially and substantially interfere with the orderly conduct of educational activities within the school building; and
5. Non-school persons may not direct, control or regularly attend activities of the student groups.

Nothing in this Policy shall be construed to authorize the District:

1. To influence the form or content of any prayer or other religious activity;
2. To require any person to participate in prayer or other religious activities;
3. To expend public funds beyond the incidental cost of providing the space for student-initiated meetings;
4. To compel any school agent or employee to attend a school meeting if the content of the speech at the meeting is contrary to the beliefs of the agent or employee;
5. To sanction meetings that are otherwise unlawful;
6. To limit the rights of groups of students which are not of a specifying numerical size;
or
7. To abridge the constitutional rights of any person.

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

The term “sponsor” as used in the Policy includes the act of promoting, leading, or participating in a meeting. The assignment of a teacher, administrator or other school employee to a meeting for custodial purposes does not constitute sponsorship at the meeting.

Meetings shall not be held in student common public areas such as halls or lunchrooms. Rooms to be used and times for meetings pursuant to this Policy shall be designated by the Building Principal on a first-come-first-serve basis. The Building Principal shall determine whether or not a school employee should attend the meeting for custodial purposes.

Students attending meetings in District facilities pursuant to this Policy are responsible for any damage to District property occurring during such meeting.

Except as provided in this Policy and Policy KF (Community Use of Schools), non-curriculum related student groups may not use District facilities.

REF: Policy KF

1st Read: December 12, 2011

