

#### **4.12 – STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS/EQUAL ACCESS - School Board Policy**

Non-curriculum-related school student organizations wishing to conduct meetings on school premises during non-instructional time shall not be denied equal access based on the religious, political, philosophical, or other content of the speech at such meetings. Such meetings must meet the following criteria.

1. The meeting is to be voluntary and student-initiated;
2. There is no sponsorship of the meeting by the school, the government, or its agents or employees;
3. The meeting must occur during non-instructional time;
4. Employees or agents of the school are present at religious meetings only in a non-participatory capacity;
5. The meeting does not materially and substantially interfere with the orderly conduct of educational activities within the school; and
6. Non-school persons may not direct, conduct, control, or regularly attend activities of student groups.

All meetings held on school premises must be scheduled and approved by the principal. The school, its agents, and employees retain the authority to maintain order and discipline, to protect the well-being of students and faculty, and to assure that attendance of students at meetings is voluntary.

Fraternities, sororities, and secret societies are forbidden in the District's schools. Membership to student organizations shall not be by a vote of the organization's members, nor be restricted by the student's race, religion, sex, national origin, or other arbitrary criteria. Hazing, as defined by law, is forbidden in connection with initiation into, or affiliation with, any student organization's extracurricular activity or sports program. Students who are convicted of participation in hazing or the failure to report hazing shall be expelled.

Legal References: A.C.A. § 6-21-201 et seq.      A.C.A. § 6-10-132      A.C.A. § 6-18-601 et seq.

A.C.A. § 6-21-201 et seq.      20 U.S.C. 4071 Equal Access Act

Board of Education of the Westside Community Schools v. Mergens, 496 U.S. 226 (1990)

Date Adopted: Oct. 2010

Last Revised: July 2018

#### **Clubs and Organizations (High School)**

All clubs and organizations must submit a list of fundraisers for the school year during the first week of school. Fundraisers are subject to board approval. Any exceptions must be pre-approved.

#### **Extracurricular Activities and Integral-curricular Activities (High School)**

We believe that extracurricular activities should supplement the regular instructional program and afford opportunities for social exchange, enrichment of individual personal resources, and wholesome completion. Extracurricular activities will be encouraged as long as they are consistent with the academic goals and objectives of this school district. Integral activities are vital parts of a vocational teacher's curriculum.

To limit excessive school-related absences and class interruptions, Nemo Vista School has implemented the following policies that relate to extracurricular and co-curriculum activities.

1. Field trips may be planned as part of the regular school day.
2. Integral-curricular activities, such as, FBLA, FFA, and FCCLA, which often require activities during the regular school day will be treated as in-class activities and students will not be counted absent from other classes, however, all assignments must be made up as required by the classes that were missed.

#### **Nemo Vista Requirements for Extracurricular and Integral-curricular Activities (High School)**

Extracurricular and integral activities supplement the regular instructional program and afford opportunities for social exchange, enrichment of individual personal resources, and wholesome competition. Activities must improve the student's education and make a better relationship between the faculty, students, and community. Activities should be consistent with the academic goals and objectives

of the school district.

All students belonging to an organization must exhibit commendable behavior at all times. Failure to do so can result in removal from the organization.

Annual Staff – 2.0 GPA – Individuals are selected by sponsors.

Athletics – Students entering 7<sup>th</sup> grade through completion of the first 9<sup>th</sup> grade semester must pass 3 of 4 core classes and have a 2.0 GPA. 9<sup>th</sup> grade students competing 2<sup>nd</sup> semester through 12<sup>th</sup> grade must pass 4 academic classes and have a 2.0 GPA. Students must have proper citizenship in all classes and athletic events.

Beta Club – Students must have a 3.5 GPA, and must meet the citizenship requirements. Must meet citizenship requirements of 80% scored by core teachers.

FBLA – INTEGRAL – Students must have taken or currently be taking a business course. Dues must be paid.

FCCLA – INTEGRAL – Students must currently be enrolled in 1 FCCLA course. Dues must be paid.

Fire Marshal - 2.0 GPA – Students will be screened and selected by the principal.

Library Club – 2.0 GPA – Students must be interested in reading, know about the Dewey Decimal System, and sense of responsibility, and have good citizenship.

Newspaper Staff – 2.0 GPA. Students will be screened and selected by the sponsor. Also, must be currently taking or have already taken journalism.

Student Council – 3.0 GPA. Students must have leadership ability, and be elected by classmates. Students can have no more than three discipline referrals per year.

FCA – Students must pay annual dues.

FFA – 2.0 GPA

## **SCHOOL ORGANIZATIONS**

1. No state or federal law prohibits student organizations at the elementary or secondary level.
2. Students have the right to join an existing club and should not be restricted from membership based on race, sex, national origin, or arbitrary criteria.
3. Students may, however, be restricted to membership based on their sex, but only the organization is entitled to Title IX exemption under the Bayh Amendment. This amendment gives amendment to organizations that are:
  - a) Voluntary youth service organizations;
  - b) Tax exempt under Section 501 (a) of the 1954 Internal Revenue Code (religious and charitable organizations);
  - c) Single sex by traditions; or
  - d) Principally composed of members under the age of 19;
  - e) School fraternities and secret societies are banned in Arkansas public schools.

**BETA CLUB:** The Senior Beta Club is a leadership service club for members of the senior high grades. Its purpose is to encourage effort reward merit and promote those qualities of character that make for good citizenship.

Qualifications for individual membership are a grade point average of 3.5, worthy character, good mentality, credible achievement, and commendable attitude. Students who meet these requirements may join. To remain in the Beta Club, a student must maintain a 3.25 GPA, and have no more than one (1) disciplinary action each semester.

The Senior Beta Club is involved in various money-making and service projects during the school year which might help cover the expense of the State Beta Club Convention.

**FFA:** The primary aim of the FFA is the development of agricultural leadership, cooperation, and citizenship. Also, the FFA is devoted to developing character, fostering, participation, and encouraging improvement in scholarship.

**FCCLA:** The FCCLA is the national organization of girls and boys studying homemaking business-related subjects.

**FBLA:** The Future Business Leaders of America is a national organization of students studying business-

related subjects. It serves as an integral part of the curriculum by incorporating business ideals into the daily classroom. Students may gain knowledge through business-related experiences such as field trips, conferences, and workshops.

**Fire Marshals:** Fire Marshals consist of a group of volunteer students who assist the principal in supervising monthly fire drills and checking for fire hazards.

**Reward Trips – Students who have violated the following criteria will not be allowed to go on Reward Trips (High School):**

1. Violated the Nemo Vista Attendance Policy.
2. Has more than 2 discipline slips in their file
3. Has had a long-term suspension.

**RULES FOR PARTICIPATION IN ACTIVITIES (High School)**

1. Use of alcoholic beverages or tobacco will not be tolerated in any form.
2. Use of abusive drugs will not be tolerated.
3. The students will maintain an appearance that will enhance the dignity, respect, and image of Nemo Vista Schools.
4. The students will dress according to the staff's direction during the activity events.
5. Violation of these rules will result in disciplinary action.

**Requirements for field trips, rewards, and school dances**

Students who continuously misbehave or violate the attendance policy may be limited or excluded from extracurricular activities.

*Objection to Publication Form in the Tear-out section*