

## **EQUAL ACCESS BY NON-SCHOOL SPONSORED STUDENT GROUPS**

Since the School District of Colby receives federal financial assistance, and because the district allows non-school-sponsored student groups to meet on school premises, currently enrolled students in grades K-12 shall be permitted to conduct group meetings on school premises during non-instructional time. Student groups shall request permission from the principal to use school facilities and schedule space through the building principal and completion of a Building Use Request Form.

The student groups requesting facility usage shall not discriminate against other students on the basis of sex, race, national origin, religion, ancestry, creed, pregnancy, marital or parental status, sexual orientation or physical, mental, emotional or learning disability. All approved programs will be in concert with District goals for student conduct.

The following standards for all student meetings shall be uniformly required of all requesting student groups:

1. The meeting is voluntary and student initiated.
2. The meeting is not sponsored by the school or employees of the school.
3. School employees present at any meetings do so "in a non-participatory capacity".
4. The meeting does not materially and substantially interfere with the orderly conduct of educational activities within the school.
5. The meeting is for non-curriculum related activities.
6. The student group will not be permitted to conduct fundraisers or social events in school.
7. Only duly enrolled students may apply for Building Use Request Form.
8. The student group shall be expected to respect the facility and leave the room in a clean and orderly fashion.

Nothing in this policy or these standards shall be construed to limit the authority of the school, 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 Board of Education prescribes that all such meetings occur during non-instructional time and retains the right to establish the meeting time before or after the instructional day.

LEGAL REFERENCE: Equal Access Act (Title VIII of Public Law 98-377)