Curriculum and Non-Curriculum Student Groups

Curricular and Noncurricular Student Groups

Purpose—

The Board of Education of the _____ School District has determined that the educational goals of the School District are furthered by recognizing curricular clubs and those noncurricular student groups which comply with this Policy.

Definitions—

The following definitions apply to this Policy: 1. “Bigotry” means action or advocacy of imminent action involving: a. the harassment or denigration of a person or entity; or b. any intent to cause a person not to freely enjoy or exercise any right secured by the constitution or laws of the United States or the state, except that an evaluation or prohibition may not be made of the truth or falsity of any religious belief or expression of conscience unless the means of expression or conduct arising therefrom violates the standards of conduct outlined by law. 2. “Club” means any student organization that meets during noninstructional time. 3. “Conscience” means a standard based upon learned experiences, a personal philosophy or system of belief, religious teachings or doctrine, an absolute or external sense of right and wrong which is felt on an individual basis, a belief in an external absolute, or any combination of the foregoing. 4. “Curricular club” means a club that is school sponsored and that may receive leadership, direction, and support from the school or District beyond providing a meeting place during noninstructional time and: a. with subject matter that is taught or will soon be taught in a regular course; b. with subject matter that concerns the body of courses as a whole; c. in which participation is required for a particular course; or d. in which participation results in academic credit. 5. “Discretionary time” means school-related time for students that is not instructional time, including free time before and after school, during lunch and between classes or on buses, and private time before athletic and other events or activities.

6. “Elementary school curricular club” means a curricular club at an elementary school. 7. “Encourage criminal or delinquent conduct” means action or advocacy of imminent action that violates any law or administrative rule but does not include discussions concerning changing of laws or rules or actions taken through lawfully established channels to effectuate such change. 8. “Instructional time” means time during which a school is responsible for a student and the student is required or expected to be actively engaged in a learning activity, including instructional activities in the classroom or study hall during regularly scheduled hours, required activities outside the classroom, and counseling, private conferences, or tutoring provided by school employees or volunteers acting in their official capacities during or outside of regular school hours. 9. “Involve human sexuality” means: a. presenting information in

violation of laws governing sex education, including Utah Code §§ 53G-10-402 and 53E-9-203; b. advocating or engaging in sexual activity outside of legally recognized marriage or forbidden by state law; or c. presenting or discussing information relating to the use of contraceptive devices or substances, regardless of whether the use is for purposes of contraception or personal health. 10. “Limited open forum” means a forum created by the District for student expression within the constraints of Utah Code § 53G-10-203(2)(b). 11. “Noncurricular club” is a club in a secondary school that students initiate that may be authorized and allowed school facilities use during noninstructional time by a school and the Board of Education in accordance with law. A noncurricular club’s meetings, ideas, and activities are not sponsored or endorsed in any way by the Board, the District or District employees. A noncurricular club shall have a minimum of three members. 12. “Noninstructional time” means time set aside by a school before instructional time begins or after instructional time ends, including discretionary time. 13. “Personal identity characteristic” means an individual’s race, color,

ethnicity, sex, sexual orientation, national origin, religion, or gender identity. 14. “Prohibited discriminatory practice” means the same as that term is defined in Utah Code § 53H-1-504.

15. “Religious club” means a noncurricular club designated in its application as either being religiously based or based on expression or conduct mandated by conscience. 16. “School facilities use” means access to a school facility, premises, or playing field. “School facilities use” includes access to a limited open forum. 17. “Secondary school curricular club” means a curricular club located at a secondary school. Utah Code § 53G-7-701 (2026) Utah Code § 53G-7-704(1) (2026) Utah Code § 53H-1-504(1)(b), (c) (2026)

Limited Open Forum and Reservation of Right to Close Forum—

Schools within the District may establish and maintain a limited open forum for student clubs pursuant to law, State Board of Education rules, and District Policy. Notwithstanding, the Board of Education retains the right to create a closed forum in the District or at any of its schools at any time by allowing curricular clubs only. Utah Code § 53G-7-702(1) (2026)

Delegation of Authority to Local Schools—

The Board hereby authorizes local schools within the District to review applications for club authorization. A local school principal shall review applications for authorization of clubs on a case-by-case basis. Before granting authorization, the school shall find that the proposed club meets the requirements of a curricular club or a noncurricular club, and that the proposed club's purpose and activities comply with this Policy. A school shall grant authorization and school facilities use to curricular and noncurricular clubs whose applications are found to meet the requirements of this Policy, rules of the State Board of Education, and policies of the District and shall limit or deny authorization or school facilities use to proposed clubs that do not meet the requirements of this part, rules of the State Board of Education, and policies of the District. Authorization shall be denied to any proposed club which promotes or encourages a prohibited discriminatory practice. Authorization shall be denied to a proposed curricular club when the general purpose of the club promotes, degrades, or otherwise identifies a personal identity characteristic. Authorization shall be denied to a proposed noncurricular club when the club's general purpose degrades a personal identity characteristic.

Nothing in this Policy prohibits discussion of historical, cultural, religious, or social issues related to a personal identity characteristic within a club with membership that remains open, in relation to personal identity characteristics, consistent with state and federal nondiscrimination law.

Except as specifically provided for in this Policy, a proposed club may not be subjected to standards, requirements, or limitations based on the purpose or content of the club to which other clubs of the same designation (curricular or noncurricular) are subject. A school may not, except as specifically provided for in this Policy, condition authorization of, restrict, or limit a club based on the political or policy position of the club. Utah Code § 53G-7-702 (2026)

Prohibition of Credit for Advocacy Activities—

Regardless of membership in a curricular or noncurricular club, a school may not grant a student academic credit, course credit, preferential grading treatment, or excused absences for participation in political advocacy, partisan activity, or public protest. This prohibition does not preclude instruction regarding civic processes, public policy, or governmental institutions so long as participation in political advocacy or public demonstration is not required or incentivized as a condition of academic credit or attendance. Utah Code § 53G-7-702(5) (2026)

Formation and Renewal of Student Club—

Within twenty (20) school days after the beginning of the school year, each student group seeking to establish a club under this Policy must submit an application to form a club. In addition to filing an initial application to form the club, within twenty (20) days after the beginning of the school year each club must submit to the principal or a designee an application annually.

Curricular Club Application for Authorization—

Faculty members or students proposing a curricular club shall submit written application for authorization on a form approved by the District. However, clubs whose membership is determined by student body election or clubs that are governed by an association that regulates interscholastic activities are exempted from these application requirements. 1. An application for authorization of a curricular club shall include: a. the recommended club name, which must be consistent with the club's purposes and school sponsorship; b. a statement of the club's purpose that supports or enhances a specific course, academic pathway, or instructional program, the club's goals, and the club's activities; c. a statement of the club's categorization, indicating all of the following that may apply: i. athletic; ii. business/economic;

iii. agriculture; iv. art/music/performance; v. science; vi. gaming; vii. religious; viii. community service/social justice; and ix. other; d. the recommended meeting times, dates, and places; e. a statement that the club will comply with the provisions of this part and all other applicable laws, rules, or policies; and f. a budget showing the amount and source of any funding the club receives or will receive and the proposed use of the funding. 2. If the school finds that the proposed club is a noncurricular club, the school may: a. return the application to the faculty member or students proposing the club for amendment; or b. review the application as an application for authorization of a noncurricular club. Utah Code § 53G-7-703 (2026)

Noncurricular Club Annual Application for Authorization—

Students proposing a noncurricular club shall submit a written application for authorization on a form approved by the District. 1. An application for authorization of a noncurricular club shall include: a. the recommended club name; b. a statement of the club's purpose that supports or enhances a specific course, academic pathway, or instructional program, the club's goals, and the club's activities; c. a statement of the club's categorization, indicating all of the following that may apply: i. athletic; ii. business/economic; iii. agriculture; iv. art/music/performance;

v. science; vi. gaming; vii. religious; viii. community service/social justice; and ix. other; d. the recommended meeting times, dates, and places; e. a statement that the club will comply with the provisions of this part and all other applicable laws, rules, or policies; and f. a budget showing the amount and source of any funding the club receives or will receive and the proposed use of the funding. Utah Code § 53G-7-703(3) (2026) Utah Code § 53G-7-704 (2026)

Noncurricular Club Name Approval—

Noncurricular club name approval is a separate action from approval of a noncurricular club. A noncurricular club name must: 1. reasonably reflect the actual purpose, goals, and activities of the club; 2. not improperly imply school sponsorship or affiliation; or 3. not result in or imply a violation of the requirements for clubs, undue disruption of school operations, subjecting students to harassment or persecution, imply inappropriate association with any non-school organizations or groups, or imply that the club would operate in violation of laws or rules. Utah Code § 53G-7-704(5) (2026)

Clubs – Limitations and Denials—

Noncurricular clubs are not permitted in elementary schools.

If noncurricular clubs are permitted in a secondary school, the school shall allow all noncurricular clubs which meet the requirements of this Policy.

When noncurricular clubs are permitted, similar noncurricular clubs shall receive uniform treatment from schools within the District. 1. A school shall limit or deny authorization or school facilities use to a club or require changes to the club's application before granting authorization or school facilities use: a. as the school determines to be necessary to i. protect the physical, emotional, psychological, or moral well-being of students and faculty;

ii. maintain order and discipline on school premises; iii. prevent a material and substantial interference with the orderly conduct of a school's educational activities; iv. protect the rights of parents and students; v. maintain the boundaries of socially appropriate behavior;

or vi. ensure compliance with all applicable laws, rules, regulations, and policies; or b. whose proposed application and proposed activities indicate students or advisors in club related activities would as a substantial, material, or significant part of the student's or club's conduct or means of expression: i. encourage criminal or delinquent conduct; ii. promote bigotry; iii. involve human sexuality; iv. involve any effort to engage in or conduct mental health therapy, counseling, or psychological services for which a license is required under state law; or v. promote or encourage a prohibited discriminatory practice. 2. If a school or the District limits or denies authorization to a club, the school or the District shall provide, in writing, to the applicant the factual and legal basis for the limitation or denial. Utah Code § 53G-7-703(7)(a) (2026) Utah Code § 53G-7-704(6), (7), (8) (2026) Utah Code § 53G-7-705 (2026)

Notice of Authorized Noncurricular Clubs—

The District shall publish on its website a list of authorized noncurricular clubs within the District, including a short description of each club. A school shall consult this list and the lists from neighboring LEAs in considering an application for authorization of a noncurricular club. Utah Code § 53G-7-704(8) (2026)

Oversight of Authorized Clubs—

1. A school shall approve a faculty sponsor for each authorized curricular club and a faculty sponsor or monitor for each authorized noncurricular or religious club to provide oversight consistent with this Policy and the needs of the school to ensure that the methods of expression, religious practices, or other conduct of the students or advisors involved do not:

a. unreasonably interfere with the ability of school officials to maintain order and discipline; b. unreasonably endanger or threaten the well-being of persons or property; c. violate concepts of civility or propriety appropriate to a school setting; or d. violate applicable laws, rules, regulations, and policies. 2. Sponsors. a. A school shall annually approve faculty members as sponsors of curricular clubs. b. Sponsors shall organize and direct the purpose and activities of a curricular club. 3. Supervisors and monitors. a. A school shall approve faculty members to serve as supervisors and monitors for authorized noncurricular clubs. b. A supervisor and monitor shall provide oversight to ensure compliance with the approved club purposes, goals, and activities and with the provisions of this part and other applicable laws, rules, and policies. c. A monitor approved for a religious, political, or public policy club may not participate in the activities of the club, except to perform the supervisory role required by this Policy. d. The approval of a faculty supervisor or monitor does not constitute school sponsorship of the club. 4. Without the prior approval by the school, a person who is not a school faculty member or a club member may not: a. make a presentation to a noncurricular club; or b. direct, conduct, control, or regularly attend the meetings of a noncurricular club. Utah Code § 53G-7-706 (2026)

Use of School Facilities by Clubs—

A school shall determine and assign school facilities use for curricular and noncurricular clubs consistent with the needs of the school. 1. The following rules apply to curricular clubs: a. in assigning school facilities use, the administrator may give priority to curricular clubs over noncurricular clubs; and

b. the school may provide financial or other support to curricular clubs. 2. The following rules apply to noncurricular clubs on an equal basis to all noncurricular clubs in the District: a. a school may not give a preference or priority among noncurricular clubs; b. a school may only provide the space for noncurricular club meetings; c. a school may not spend public funds for noncurricular clubs, except as required to implement the provisions of this Policy, including providing space and faculty oversight for noncurricular clubs; d. a school shall establish the noninstructional times

during which noncurricular clubs may meet; e. a school may establish the places that noncurricular clubs may meet; f. a school may set the number of hours noncurricular clubs may use the school's facilities per month, ensuring the equal treatment of all noncurricular clubs; and g. a school shall determine the access a noncurricular club may have to the school newspaper, yearbook, bulletin boards, or public address system, ensuring the equal treatment of all noncurricular clubs. Utah Code § 53G-7-707 (2019)

Club Membership—

1. Membership in curricular clubs is governed by the following rules: a. a school or the Board of Education may limit membership to students who are currently attending the sponsoring school or another District school; and members who attend a school other than the sponsoring school shall have, in addition to the consent required for all club membership under this Policy, specific parental permission for membership in a curricular club at another school; b. curricular clubs may require that prospective members try out based on objective criteria outlined in the application materials; and try-outs may not require activities that violate the provisions of this Policy or other applicable laws, rules, or policies; c. a curricular club may not: i. promote, limit, or restrict membership based on a personal identity characteristic; or ii. require affirmation of a particular ideological or political belief unrelated to the curricular purpose of the club; and

d. other rules as determined by the State Board of Education, the District, or the school. 2. Membership in noncurricular clubs is governed by the following rules: a. student membership in a noncurricular club is voluntary; b. a school or the Board of Education may limit membership to students who are currently attending the sponsoring school; c. noncurricular clubs may require that prospective members try out based on objective criteria outlined in the application materials; and try- outs may not require activities that violate the provisions of this Policy or other applicable laws, rules, or policies; d. Noncurricular clubs may not limit or restrict membership based on a personal identity characteristic; and e. other rules as determined by the State Board of Education, the District, or the school. Utah Code § 53G-7-708 (2019)

Materials Presented at Noncurricular Club Meetings—

A person who is not a school faculty member or a club member and who presents any written or other media materials at a noncurricular club meeting must deliver a copy of the materials to a school administrator no later than 24 hours after the noncurricular club meeting. A student's parent may review the materials upon request. Utah Code § 53G-7-706(4) (2026) Utah Code § 53G-7-708(2)(d), (e) (2026)

Parental Consent—

A school shall require written parental consent for student participation in all curricular and noncurricular clubs at the school. 1. The consent shall include an activity disclosure statement containing the following information: a. the specific name of the club; b. a statement of the club's purpose, goals, and activities; c. a statement of the club's categorization as described in the application for authorization of the club; d. beginning and ending dates; e. a tentative schedule of the club activities with dates, times, and places specified; f. personal costs associated with the club, if any;

g. the name of the sponsor, supervisor, or monitor who is responsible for the club; and h. any additional information the school considers important for the students and parents to know. 2. The parent or the club's sponsor, supervisor, or monitor shall file all completed parental consent forms with the school's principal or designee. Utah Code § 53G-7-709 (2026)

Violations – Investigations – School Responses—

1. A school shall investigate any written complaint that an authorized curricular or noncurricular club is: a. participating in activities beyond the scope of the club's purpose; or b. in violation of a provision of this part or another applicable law, rule, regulation, or policy. 2. After meeting with the faculty sponsor, faculty supervisor, or faculty monitor, the students involved, and the person making the written complaint, if the school substantiates a violation, the school may: a. allow the club's original statement of the club's purpose, goals, and activities to be modified to include the activities if the activities are in compliance with the provisions of this Policy and other applicable laws, rules, regulations, and policies; b. instruct the faculty sponsor, supervisor, or monitor not to allow similar violations in the future; c. limit or suspend the club's authorization or school facilities use pending further corrective action as determined by the school; or d. terminate the club's authorization and dissolve the club. 3. The school shall use the least restrictive means necessary to satisfy the school's interests as identified in this Policy in imposing any limitation on expression, practice, or conduct of any

student, advisor, or guest in a meeting of a curricular or noncurricular club, or in imposing any limitation on school facilities use. 4. A club that has been terminated may not reapply for authorization until the following school year. 5. A student who makes a false allegation or report under this section shall be subject to school discipline. Utah Code § 53G-7-710 (2026)

Appeals—

1. A school shall investigate and approve or deny a completed application or complaint within a reasonable amount of time. 2. If an application or complaint is denied, the school shall provide written reasons for the denial or results of the investigation and, if appropriate, make suggested corrections to remedy the deficiency. 3. If a school denies a club school facilities use, it shall informed the club at the time of the denial of the factual and legal basis for the denial, and, if appropriate, how the club could correct the basis for the denial. 4. A club, a student desirous of participating or speaking, or a complaining parent, has ten school days from the date of the denial, suspension, or termination of the club to file a written appeal from the denial, suspension, or termination to the Board of Education or its designee. 5. The Board of Education or its designee shall issue a determination within a reasonable amount of time from receipt of the appeal, which decision is final and constitutes satisfaction of all administrative remedies unless an agreement of all parties extends the time for evaluation. 6. A person directly affected by a decision made in accordance with the provisions of this part may appeal the decision by writing to the Board of Education or its designee. Utah Code § 53G-7-711 (2026)

Construction of Policy with Respect to Certain Rights—

Nothing in this Policy is intended to: 1. Influence the form or content of any prayer or other religious activity; 2. Require any person, student, or employee to participate in any prayer or other religious activities; 3. Compel any school employee to attend a meeting of a noncurricular student group if the content of the speech at the meeting is contrary to the beliefs of the employee; 4. Sanction meetings that are otherwise unlawful; or 5. Abridge the constitutional rights of any person.

Source Traceability

Source	Use / Disposition
USBA Model Policy FG, modified 4 May 2026	Retained as the controlling curricular and noncurricular student group policy, including application, club authorization, facility use, membership, materials, parent consent, investigation, and appeal requirements.
MSD Policy 6320, approved 2024	Reviewed against the USBA model. Most local text substantially duplicates the updated USBA model. FG-1 preserves the unique off-campus noncurricular club supervisor/scope-of-employment boundary.

Source	Use / Disposition
MSD Policy 2070, approved 2024	Reviewed for fundraiser/donation coordination; fundraising controls are not duplicated here because they are already assigned to Section G fundraising and Section C fiscal policies.