

1 Great Falls School District

2  
3 **STUDENTS**

3550

4  
5 Student Clubs

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7 The Board recognizes that student clubs are a helpful resource for schools and supports their  
8 formation. Student clubs must complete an application process. The Superintendent or designee  
9 is delegated the authority to approve or deny club applications.

10  
11 Recognized Student Clubs and Organizations

12  
13 The Board of Trustees authorize the administration to approve and recognize curricular student  
14 clubs or organizations in the manner consistent with this policy and administrative procedure.  
15 Curricular student clubs are those approved student clubs that directly relate to the body of  
16 courses offered by the school. Curricular student clubs that are recognized by the District may be  
17 permitted to use District facilities, use of the District's name, a District school's name, or a  
18 District school's team name or any logo attributable to the District, and raise and deposit funds  
19 with the District.

20  
21 In order for the administration to approve and recognize a curricular student club the group must  
22 submit an application to the building administrator containing the following:

- 23  
24
- The organization's name and purpose;
  - The portion of the curriculum that forms the basis of the club or the course offered at the  
26 school enhanced by the club's functions, must be identified. This step is required for  
27 consideration as a curricular club. Applications that do not satisfy this step may be  
28 permitted to meet at the school as a non-curricular student group.
  - The staff employee designated to serve as the group's advisor;
  - The rules and procedures under which it operates;
  - A statement that the membership will adhere to applicable Board policies and  
32 administrative procedures; and.
  - A statement that membership is open and unrestricted and the organization will not  
34 engage in discrimination based on someone's innate characteristics or membership in a  
35 protected classification.
- 36

37 The Buildings will maintain a current list of approved and recognized clubs and make them  
38 available upon request.

39  
40 Upon approval of a new curricular student club, the administration will notify the District clerk  
41 so the group may have any funds raised for its operations so designated in accordance with the  
42 District's financial practices, to include Board approval.

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44 Approved curricular student clubs will appear in the student handbook and other appropriate  
45 district publications. Advisors of new student clubs may be eligible for a stipend in accordance  
46 with applicable collective bargaining agreement provisions and available district resources.

1 Approved curricular student clubs may also have limited access as designated by the  
 2 administration to distribute messages through official communications of the District (e.g.  
 3 intercom announcements, District newsletters, group emails, etc.).  
 4

5 Student-led and initiated groups of similar interests that do not meet the requirements to be an  
 6 approved curricular student club as outlined in this policy shall be designated as noncurricular  
 7 student groups. Noncurricular student groups include any student group that do not directly relate  
 8 to the body of courses offered by the District but has a regular meeting schedule and established  
 9 operational structure. Student meetings must be supervised by an adult. District employees that  
 10 are present at meetings in a supervisory capacity are not eligible for compensation.  
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12 The District approves a limited open forum, within the meaning of that term as defined 20 U.S.  
 13 Code § 4071, for non-curricular student groups to meet on school premises during non-  
 14 instructional time. Noncurricular student groups wishing to conduct a meeting within this limited  
 15 forum are subject to the following fair opportunity criteria, which shall be uniformly  
 16 administered consistent with 20 U.S. Code § 4071:  
 17

- 18 1. All such meetings must be voluntary and student-initiated;
- 19 2. There shall be no sponsorship of the meeting by the District or its agents or employees;
- 20 3. Employees or agents of the District that are present at religious meetings must be only in  
 21 a nonparticipatory capacity;
- 22 4. All meetings must not materially and substantially interfere with the orderly conduct of  
 23 educational activities within the District; and
- 24 5. Non-school persons may not direct, conduct, control, or regularly attend activities of the  
 25 non-curricular student groups.  
 26

27 Meeting is defined as a gathering of a group of students for the purposes of discussing group  
 28 beliefs or engaging in group operations. An event that does not meet this definition will be  
 29 required to comply with the Community Use of District Facilities Policy and Procedure.  
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### 31 Fundraising

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 33 Noncurricular student groups may post notice of gatherings in accordance with Policy 3222.  
 34 Noncurricular student groups may be authorized by the Superintendent or designee to have the  
 35 name of the school to appear as part of their group's name. A logo attributable to the school or  
 36 District, the District's name, or the school's team name or mascot may not be used by a  
 37 noncurricular group. The permission to post notice of gatherings or use the school name does not  
 38 constitute sponsorship of the group by the District.  
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### 40 Informal Gatherings

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 42 Students are permitted to informally gather at the school in accordance with Policy 3233.  
 43 Informal gatherings of students are not permitted to use the District's name, a District school's  
 44 name, or a District school's team name or mascot, or any logo attributable to the District, and  
 45 raise and deposit funds with the District. Informal student gatherings may not post notices or

1 other materials in accordance with Policy 3222 but may request to post items in accordance with  
2 Policy 4331.

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4 Financial Operations

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6 All funds raised by recognized student clubs are subject to applicable School District policies  
7 regarding financial management. All funds raised by recognized student clubs that are donated to  
8 the School District become public funds when placed in a School District account. All public  
9 funds must be monitored in accordance with state law. Deposits must be reviewed to ensure  
10 compliance with equity rules, amateur rules and appropriateness under District policy.

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12 Funds spent by the School District will be done in accordance with District purchase order policy  
13 and spending limits regardless of the source of the donation. All expenditures should be  
14 preapproved to ensure equity and auditing standards are met.

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16 The administration is authorized to develop procedures to implement this policy.

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18 Cross References:

19 Policy 2332 Religion and Religious Activities  
20 Policy 3210 Equal Education and Nondiscrimination  
21 Policy 3222 Distribution and Posting Materials  
22 Policy 3233 Student Use of Building – Equal Access  
23 Policy 4331 Use of School Property for Posting Notices

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25 Legal References:

26 20 U.S. Code § 4071 Denial of Equal Access Prohibited  
27 § 20-5-203, MCA Secret Organization Prohibited

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29 Policy History

30 Adopted on: January 27, 2020  
31 Revised on: August 23, 2021