

Early Light Academy Student Clubs Authorization Policy



EARLY LIGHT
ACADEMY

POLICY

The purpose of this policy is to establish the process for authorization of student clubs as outlined in state law.

Clubs whose membership is determined by student body election or that are governed by an association that regulates interscholastic activities are exempt from this policy.

Early Light Academy's (the "School") administration will review applications for authorization of curricular and noncurricular clubs on a case-by-case basis.

The School will follow Utah's Student Clubs laws in Utah Code § 53G-7-701 *et seq.*

Definitions

For purposes of this policy, "curricular club" means a club that is School sponsored and that may receive leadership, direction, and support from the School beyond providing a meeting place during noninstructional time. An elementary school curricular club means a club that is organized and directed by School sponsors for elementary school students at the School. A secondary school curricular club means a club at the School for secondary school students:

- (a) whose subject matter is taught or will soon be taught in a regular course;
- (b) whose subject matter 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.

For purposes of this policy, "noncurricular club" is a student-initiated group of secondary school students at the School that may be authorized and allowed School facilities use during noninstructional time by the School and Board of Directors (the "Board") in accordance with this policy and applicable law. A noncurricular club's meetings, ideas, and activities are not sponsored or endorsed in any way by the Board, the School, or by School employees.

Curricular Clubs

Application

Faculty members or students proposing a curricular club must submit a Board-approved "Student Club Application for Authorization Form" to the School administration.

The School administration will review each application and approve or deny it within a reasonable amount of time and consistent with state law and this policy.

The School administration shall approve a curricular club's name consistent with the club's purposes and its School sponsorship.

The School administration will strictly apply the definition of curricular club to determine curriculum relatedness.

If the School administration finds that the proposed curricular 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.

Only curricular clubs may be authorized for elementary school students at the School.

Faculty Oversight

School administration will ensure that all curricular clubs have faculty oversight at all times. Faculty sponsors will organize and direct the purpose and activities of a curricular club.

The approved faculty sponsor will provide oversight consistent with the Utah Student Clubs laws in Utah Code § 53G-7-701 *et seq.* and the needs of the School to ensure that the methods of expression or other conduct of the students or sponsor 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, or School policies.

Noncurricular Clubs

Application

A noncurricular club shall have a minimum of three (3) members.

Students proposing a noncurricular club must submit a Board-approved "Student Club Application for Authorization Form" to the School administration.

The School administration will review each application and approve or deny it within a reasonable amount of time.

The noncurricular club name must reasonably reflect the club's purpose, goals and activities and may not result in or imply a violation of the Utah Student Clubs laws in Utah Code § 53G-7-701 *et seq.*

The School administration may approve a noncurricular club name in an action separate from that relating to authorization of the club itself.

Faculty Oversight

The School administration will approve faculty members to serve as supervisors for authorized noncurricular clubs. The faculty supervisor will provide oversight consistent with the Utah Student Clubs laws in Utah Code § 53G-7-701 *et seq.* and the needs of the School to ensure compliance with the approved club's purposes, goals, and activities and ensure that the methods of expression, religious practices, or other conduct of the students, supervisor, or monitor 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, or School policies.

Without prior approval from the School administration, persons who are not School faculty or club members shall not:

- (a) make a presentation to a noncurricular club; or
- (b) direct, conduct, control, or regularly attend noncurricular club meetings.

Club Limitations and Denials

The School administration will limit or deny authorization or School facilities use to a club or require changes prior to granting authorization or School facilities use if such limitation, denial, or changes are necessary to:

- (a) protect the physical, emotional, psychological, or moral well-being of students and faculty;
- (b) maintain order and discipline in the School;
- (c) prevent a material and substantial interference with the orderly conduct of the School's educational activities;
- (d) protect the rights of parents/guardians and students;
- (e) maintain the boundaries of socially appropriate behavior; or
- (f) ensure compliance with all applicable laws, rules, regulations, and School policies.

The School administration will limit or deny authorization or School facilities use to a club or require changes prior to granting authorization or School facilities use if the club's proposed charter and proposed activities indicate students or advisors in club-related activities would have a substantial, material, or significant part of their conduct or means of expression:

- (a) encourage criminal or delinquent conduct;
- (b) promote bigotry;
- (c) involve human sexuality; or
- (d) involve any effort to engage in or conduct mental health therapy, counseling, or psychological services for which a license would be required under state law.

If the School administration limits or denies authorization to a club, they will provide in writing the factual and legal basis for the limitation or denial and an explanation of the appeals process. This response will be provided to the applicant in writing within a reasonable amount of time.

Parental Consent

Parental or guardian written consent for student participation in all curricular and noncurricular clubs at the School will be required. The consent form will include an activity disclosure statement containing, at a minimum, all the information outlined in the School activity disclosure example.

All completed parental consent forms shall be filed with the School administration or a designee and maintained until the end of the school year.

Appeals Procedure

If a club is denied, suspended, or terminated, a student or a complaining parent or guardian has ten (10) school days from the date of the denial, suspension, or termination to file a written appeal with the School's Director. The Director will issue an opinion in writing either upholding or overturning the denial, suspension, or termination within thirty (30) days of receiving the appeal. The Director's decision shall be the final administrative decision.

A person directly affected by the Director's decision on appeal may appeal the Director's decision by writing to a person designated by the Board.

Board Notification

The Director will notify the Board of any club approvals and denials through e-mail and/or Director's Report.