

STUDENT CLUBS AND ORGANIZATIONS

The Gilford School District permits the formation and operation of certain student organizations in its schools and permits such organizations to meet on school premises during non-instructional time. The purpose of this policy is to establish criteria governing the operation of student organizations.

School-Sponsored Student Organizations

School-sponsored student organizations serve as an extension of the regular school curriculum. Their function is to enhance the participants' educational experience and supplement the course materials within the educational program of the schools. The activities of these organizations should bear a clear relationship to the regular curriculum. Student organizations meeting these criteria and approved by the Principal will be deemed to be officially recognized, school-sponsored student organizations.

Non School-Sponsored Student Organizations

Subject to the provisions of this policy, secondary school students are permitted to form and conduct meetings of noncurricular-related and non-school-sponsored student organizations. Such organizations must be student initiated and directed, and school personnel, parents and any other persons who are not students enrolled in the Gilford School District are prohibited from directing, controlling, conducting or regularly attending the meetings of such organizations. The fact that such organizations are permitted to conduct meetings under this policy shall not constitute Gilford School District support for the purpose of such organizations or the content of any meetings thereof. These meetings must be in a supervised area of the building.

Application for Authorization of Student Organizations

Each school shall establish procedures for application for authorization of student organizations. These procedures may contain deadlines by which applications must be submitted and a minimum number of members which an organization must have. These procedures shall contain requirements for a charter, proposed name, proposed name of faculty member, if any, to act as supervisor and commitment to compliance with applicable polices and laws.

Organizational Charter

Students or school staff seeking authorization to establish a student organization shall prepare a charter setting forth the name and purposes of the organization, meeting schedule, and describing the types of activities in which club members may be engaged.

The Gilford School District may limit, deny, or revoke a charter to an organization if necessary to:

- Protect the physical, emotional, psychological, or moral well-being of students and a faculty
- Maintain order and discipline on school premises; or
- Prevent a material and substantial interference with the orderly conduct of a school's educational activities

Only the school Principal may present a student organization to the Gilford School Board for recognition. An organization must be approved by the Gilford School Board before the organization may operate.

Membership in all student organizations shall be available on a voluntary basis and limited to students enrolled or currently eligible to be enrolled in the authorizing school. Student organizations may establish academic qualifications for membership where necessarily related to the purposes of the organization. No student shall be illegally discriminated against on account of his or her race, gender expression, ethnicity, sexual orientation, national origin or religion.

Organization Supervision

School-sponsored student organizations shall be supervised by one or more of the members of the school faculty. Selection and appointment of the organization's supervisor shall be the responsibility of the school Principal. Supervisors shall participate in the direction of all activities of the organization. The supervisor or an adult designated by the supervisor shall attend all meetings. Non-school sponsored student organizations shall not have a faculty supervisor. However, the meeting(s) shall be monitored by the school staff to the extent necessary to assure building security. No school employee shall be compelled to monitor a meeting of any non-school-sponsored student organization if the content of such meeting is contrary to the beliefs of that school employee.

Meetings of Student Organizations

- All approved student organizations shall have the right to meet on school premises during non-instructional time as designated by the school Principal. No student organization shall be denied equal access to school facilities during designated meeting times on the basis of the race, gender expression, ethnicity, sexual orientation, national origin, religion, political, philosophical or other content of the speech at the meetings of such organization.
- The Principal of each school shall develop rules and procedures related to meetings of student organizations and setting the times and facilities which are available for such

meetings. Meeting times shall be limited to non-instructional time before or after regular classroom hours or during established activities periods. These rules and procedures shall be made available to all students.

- Any promotional material or information to be posted on the internet, submitted to the press, or used (hung) around the school is subject to review by the Principal.
- Failure to comply with provisions of this policy shall be grounds for revocation of the right to continue to conduct meetings under this policy.

Use of Public Funds and Fundraising

- No public funding or support shall be extended to any non-school-sponsored student organization other than the opportunity to meet on school premises on an equal basis as other student organizations.
- Non school-sponsored organization may not declare any affiliation with Gilford School District without permission by Superintendent.

Probationary Funding Period

New student organizations are subject to a probationary period of 3 years before being considered for funding (please see procedure for adding a new organization).

Compliance with Law and Policy

Student organizations shall not engage in any activity which is contrary to law, Gilford School District policy or school rules; which disrupts or clearly threatens to disrupt the orderly operation of the school; or which would adversely affect the health, safety or welfare of any students or staff members. Student organizations shall comply with the purchasing policy of the Gilford School District and may not extend the credit of the Gilford School District.

When an organization is no longer serving the interest of the school and community, it will be eliminated and the funds that supported it will be eliminated from the Budget. Funds in a student activity account will be distributed to other student activities by the Principal. Any activity that ceases to be active for more than three (3) successive years will be treated as a new activity if it again becomes active.

The administration will gather information about each of the elements for consideration of the proposal for approval or disapproval. The following elements are considered in the approval of a co-curricular club and must be maintained throughout the probationary period.

1. Liability and safety
2. Compatibility with Gilford School District policies and regulations
3. Compliance with Title IX and other applicable laws

4. Availability of space
5. Availability of same-level competition locally
6. Appropriateness for student group
7. Demonstrated need/interest in the new activity
8. Timeliness of the request in relation to the Gilford School District budget cycle (August/Sept of prior year)
9. Availability of staff (including sponsors, advisors)
10. Availability of adequate administration supervision
11. Sustainability over time
12. Availability of transportation
13. Cost considerations for the District Budget

Procedure for adding a new organization

1. An application for authorization of a new student organization must be completed and submitted to the Principal.
2. New organizations must have the recommendation of the Principal and the Superintendent of Schools.
3. The Principal will present the proposed student organization to the School Board.
4. All new organizations which are approved shall be placed on a 3-year probationary status to determine the level of student interest and the impact on the school.
5. During the probationary period, all expenses (with the exception of transportation) must be funded with resources that are not part of the regular school budget.
6. At the end of the 3-year period the Principal will prepare a written evaluation of the organization and make a recommendation to the School Board for its continuance or termination. The evaluation shall address cost, participation and impact on the students and the school culture.
7. If approved, District funding of the program will be phased in as follows pending Budget approval:
 - a. 25% - year 4
 - b. 50% - year 5
 - c. 75% - year 6
 - d. 100% – year 7
8. The School Board reserves the right to amend funding to any organization due to budgetary constraints.

(Adopted: 4/03/17)