



302.11AP Support for Student Organizations

ADOPTED: 2016.02.11
APPROVED: 2020.05.13 (2018.05.16) (2016.03.16)
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REVIEWED: 2020.01.07 (2018.05.14) (2016.02.11)

LEGAL REFERENCE:

- Education Act Sections 33 & 35.1
- Alberta Human Rights Act
- Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act

CROSS REFERENCE:

- [202.7AP Student Code of Conduct](#)
 - [202.2AP Students' Responsibilities](#)
 - [402.2AP BTPS Staff Code of Conduct](#)
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PROCEDURES:

Student-focused school groups must be motivated to enhance the educational experiences of students. Buffalo Trail Public Schools supports student organizations in accordance with Section 35.1 (1) of the Education Act:

1. If one or more students attending a school operated by a board request a staff member employed by the board for support to establish a voluntary student organization, or to lead an activity intended to promote a welcoming, caring, respectful and safe learning environment that respects diversity and fosters a sense of belonging, the principal of the school shall:
 - a. Immediately grant permission to the establishment of the student organization or the holding of the activity at the school, and
 - b. Subject to subsection (4), within a reasonable time from the date that the principal receives the request designate a staff member to serve as the staff liaison to facilitate the establishment, and the ongoing operation, of the student organization or to assist in organizing the activity.
2. For the purposes of subsection (1), an organization or activity includes an organization or

activity that promotes equality and non-discrimination because of race, religious beliefs, colour, gender, gender identity, gender expression, physical disability, mental disability, age, ancestry, place of origin, marital status, source of income, family status or sexual orientation including but not limited to organizations such as gay-straight alliances, diversity clubs, anti-racism clubs and anti-bullying clubs.

3. The students may select a respectful and inclusive name for the organization or activity, including the name “gay-straight alliance” or “queer-straight alliance”, after consulting with the principal.
 - 3.1 For greater certainty, the principal shall not prohibit or discourage students from choosing a name that includes “gay-straight alliance” or “queer-straight alliance”.
4. The principal shall immediately inform the board and the Minister if no staff member is available to serve as a staff liaison referred to in subsection 1(b), and if so informed, the Minister shall appoint a responsible adult to work with the requesting students in organizing the activity or to facilitate the establishment, and the ongoing operation, of the student organization at the school.
5. The principal is responsible for ensuring that notification, if any, respecting a voluntary student organization or activity referred to in subsection (1) is limited to the fact of the establishment of the organization or the holding of the activity, and is otherwise consistent with the usual practices relating to notifications of other student organizations and activities.
6. As a public body, BTPS falls under the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act and is bound by the provisions of that Act. Disclosure of any personal information must be done in accordance with this act.

WHEN A STUDENT ORGANIZATION IS ESTABLISHED, ALL MEMBERS WILL:

1. Work collaboratively with group members, the staff liaison and the principal to identify an appropriate time and place for both meetings and activities that is mutually acceptable for the student organization;
2. Establish written norms for the operations of the organization and clearly communicate these norms to the members of the group, the staff liaison and the principal;
3. Adhere to the BTPS Student Code of Conduct;
4. Welcome any student who supports the intent of the group.