

Virtus Academy of South Carolina Student-Initiated, Non-Curriculum Related Student Organizations

The Equal Access Act (EAA) requires that public secondary schools grant equal access to student groups who wish to meet for religious, political, or philosophical purposes if the school allows other types of non-curriculum related student groups to meet. VASC will provide a limited open forum for student-initiated, non-curriculum related groups to meet on its premises during non-instructional time. This policy will apply to students attending the upper campus only.

VASC may not deny equal access to or discriminate against those students conducting meetings on the basis of the religious, political, philosophical or other content of speech at such meetings. VASC may prevent the formation of any student club/organization where the purpose of the club/organization is unlawful, or where activities of the club/organization may materially or substantially interfere with the orderly conduct of educational activities within the school or where meetings of the club will present a substantial likelihood of danger to students or damage to school property.

School employees will not promote, lead, or participate in the meetings of non-curriculum related, student-initiated clubs/organizations; however, a school employee will be present at the meetings for custodial purposes and general student supervision. School employees also may not influence the form or content of any prayer or other religious activity, nor require any person to participate in prayer or any other religious activity. In addition, non-school persons may not direct, conduct, control or regularly attend the activities of non-curriculum student groups. The Chief Executive Officer must approve visitors to the school for such meetings prior to the meeting.

Students seeking to establish a student initiated, non-curriculum related club/organization must submit their request in writing to the Chief Executive Officer for approval. Student initiated, non-curriculum related clubs/organization must submit a request by February 1 to establish a club/organization for the next school year. For logistical reasons, clubs/organizations cannot be established during the current school year. Only students enrolled in VASC may request the club/organization. The request must state the name of the club/organization, the general purpose and mission of the club/organization, and the name of the faculty member who has agreed to act as the club monitor. The Chief Executive Officer will review the request and grant or deny the request of a club/organization to use school facilities for its meetings, consistent with the requirements of the EAA. The club/organization must be open to all VASC students attending the upper campus only without regard to race, gender, sexual orientation, religion, immigrant status, English-speaking status, or national origin.

The Chief Executive Officer has the authority to designate reasonable times and places for student-initiated, non-curriculum related clubs/organizations to conduct their meetings. The Chief Executive Officer also has the authority to establish guidelines for the distribution on school grounds of club/organization literature and the posting of signs on school grounds notifying students of club/organization meetings. Such guidelines will be applied consistently to all non-curriculum related clubs/organizations.

Adopted by the Board on 04/28/26

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