

STUDENTS – ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURESSTUDENT ACTIVITIES – Student Use of ROE Buildings – Equal Access

The READY Program of the Regional Office of Education (grades 6-12) permit curriculum-related and non-curriculum related, student-initiated groups to meet on ROE premises during non-instructional time. Non-instructional time is defined as time set aside by the READY program before actual classroom instruction begins or after actual classroom instruction ends. The ROE shall allow equal access and a fair opportunity to those students who wish to conduct a meeting within that limited open forum and who make such request to the Director of Alternative Education or his/her designee(s).

All non-curriculum related student groups shall be afforded an equal opportunity to meet on READY or ROE premises during non-instructional time, provided:

1. the meeting is voluntary and student-initiated;
2. there is no sponsorship of the meeting by the ROE, READY Program or its employees;
3. Ready Program employees are present at religious meetings only in a non-participatory capacity;
4. the meeting does not materially and substantially interfere with the orderly conduct of educational activities within the READY Program; and
5. non-school persons do not direct, conduct, control or regularly attend activities of student groups.

Students wishing to participate at such meetings shall not be discriminated against on the basis of the religious, political, philosophical, or other content of their speech.

The time and place of these meetings shall be subject to uniform regulation and administration.

Application for use of READY Program or ROE premises must be made at least one week in advance to the Director of Alternative Education or his/her designee, stating fully:

1. the purpose for which the premises are to be used;
2. the character of the program or activities;
3. the materials, if any, to be brought into on near the building;
4. the charges, if any to be assessed for participation; and
5. any other information the READY Program administration might require.

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All ROE and READY Program policies that pertain to student discipline shall apply to the conduct of non-curriculum related groups who meet on school premises.

READY Program and other ROE employees shall have the authority to maintain order and discipline on ROE premises in order to protect the health and safety of students and staff and to ensure that attendance of students at meetings is voluntary. ROE officials shall have the right to enter or attend any meeting conducted by non-curriculum related student groups.

LEG. REF.: Title VIII of the Equal Access Act (1984).

Approved: 07/01/01