

Administrative Procedure 338

Students

STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS AND ACTIVITIES TO SUPPORT A WELCOMING, CARING, RESPECTFUL AND SAFE LEARNING ENVIRONMENT

BACKGROUND

The charter board believes that students are better able to achieve success and a positive sense of self when schools have an inclusive, welcoming, caring, respectful and safe learning environment. This supports students in building healthy relationships with others, valuing diversity and demonstrating respect, empathy and compassion.

The charter board supports the establishment of student organizations or activities that promote equality and non-discrimination with respect to, without limitation, race, religious beliefs, colour, gender, gender identity, gender expression, physical disability, mental disability, 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 in accordance with the *Education Act*.

PROCEDURES

1. If one or more students attending Westmount Charter School request a staff member employed by the board for support to establish a voluntary student organization, or to lead a activity intended to promote a welcoming, caring, respectful and safe learning environment that respects diversity and fosters a sense of belonging, the principal shall:
 - 1.1 immediately grant permission for the establishment of the student organization or the holding of the activity at the school; and
 - 1.2 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. The students may select a respectful and inclusive name for the organization or activity, including the name “gay-straight alliance” or “queer-straight alliance.”
 - 2.1. For greater certainty, the principal shall not prohibit or discourage students from choosing a name that includes “gay-straight alliance” or “queer-straight alliance.”
3. The principal shall immediately inform the board and the minister if no staff member is available to serve as a staff liaison, 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.
4. The principal is responsible for ensuring that notification, if any, respecting a voluntary organization or activity referred to in subsection 1.1 above, is limited to the fact of the establishment of the organization or holding of the activity.
5. The principal is responsible for ensuring that notification, if any, must be otherwise consistent with the usual practices relating to notifications of other student organizations and activities.
6. The disclosure of personal information is governed by the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*.

Legal Reference: *Education Act, Alberta Human Rights Act, Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms, Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*

Cross Reference: Charter Board Policy 13 Welcoming, Caring, Respectful and Safe Learning and Working Environments

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