**Fresno Unified Board Policy (BP) 6145.5**  
Organizations/Associations

**Student Organizations**
The Governing Board believes that student groups or clubs reinforce the instructional program, give students experience in civics and government, and provide social and recreational activities. Student groups also serve to honor outstanding student achievement and enhance school spirit and students' sense of belonging. Prior to meeting on school grounds, all student groups shall be authorized by the principal or designee in accordance with Board policy and administrative regulation.

(cf. 1321 - Solicitation of Funds from and by Students)  
(cf. 3452 - Student Activity Funds)  
(cf. 6142.3 - Civic Education)  
(cf. 6142.4 - Service Learning/Community Service Classes)

Student clubs may be recognized as authorized school organizations if they are organized at the school, sponsored by school personnel, composed completely of current student body members, hold the majority of their meetings at school and have a democratic plan for the selection of members. Organizational activities shall not conflict with the authority and responsibilities of school officials.

Membership in secret fraternities, sororities, and clubs is prohibited. Clubs shall be open to all students to participate and have ongoing open enrollment throughout the school year.

**Hazing**
No student shall conspire to engage in hazing, participate in hazing, or commit any act that causes or is likely to cause bodily danger, physical harm, or personal degradation or disgrace resulting in physical or mental harm to any fellow student or other person. Persons violating this policy shall be subject to district discipline, misdemeanor penalties, and forfeiture of entitlements. (Penal Code 245.6)

(cf. 5144 - Discipline)

**Limited Open Forum**
The Board encourages students to pursue interests and clubs which may not directly relate to the district's curriculum and, to that end, has created a limited open forum.

All student-initiated groups shall be given equal access to meet on school premises during noninstructional time without regard to their religious, political, philosophical, or other speech content. The Board shall ensure that: (20 USC 4071, 4072)

1. The meeting shall be voluntary and student-initiated.  
2. There shall be no sponsorship of the meeting by the school or staff. The term sponsorship means that school staff are promoting, leading, or participating in a meeting. The assignment of a teacher, administrator, or other school employee to a meeting for custodial purposes shall not constitute sponsorship of the meeting.  
3. Employees of the school shall be present at religious meetings only in a nonparticipatory capacity.  
4. The meeting shall not materially and substantially interfere with the orderly conduct of educational activities within the school.
5. Nonschool persons shall not direct, conduct, control, or regularly attend activities of student groups.

(cf. 1330 - Use of School Facilities)
(cf. 3515.2 - Disruptions)
(cf. 5145.2 - Freedom of Speech/Expression)

District schools may maintain a limited open forum during which students may hold meetings or activities not directly related to the school curriculum. The principal shall schedule this forum on noninstructional time so that it in no way interferes with regular school activities.

(cf. 6116 - Classroom Interruptions)

The Board shall not deny access to any student-initiated group on the basis of religious, political, philosophical or any other content to be addressed at such meetings.

(cf. 5145.2 - Freedom of Speech/Expression)

All student clubs or groups shall have equal access to the school media to announce meetings, including the public address system, the school newspaper, bulletin boards, and school web site. However, the principal or designee may issue a disclaimer that such activities are not school-sponsored.

All noncurricular-related student groups shall be given equal access to meeting space, school equipment, and supplies.

Fresno Unified School District prohibits discrimination, harassment, intimidation, and bullying based on actual or perceived race, color, ethnicity, national origin, immigration status, ancestry, age, creed, religion, political affiliation, gender, gender identity, gender expression, genetic information, mental or physical disability, sex, sexual orientation, marital status, pregnancy or parental status, medical information, military veteran status, or association with a person or a group with one or more of these actual or perceived characteristics or any other basis protected by law or regulation, in its educational program(s) or employment.

Legal Reference:
EDUCATION CODE
52 Designation of secondary schools
53 Designation of high schools
200-262.3 Prohibition of discrimination on the basis of sex
38130-38138 Civic Center Act
48900 Hazing
48907 Student exercise of free expression
48930-48938 Student organizations
48950 Freedom of speech
49020-49023 Athletic programs
CODE OF REGULATIONS, TITLE 5
2 Definitions
5531 Supervision of extracurricular activities of students
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, TITLE 20
4071-4074 Equal Access Act
7904 School prayer
7905 Boy Scouts equal access
UNITED STATES CODE, TITLE 36
20101-240112 Patriotic organizations
COURT DECISIONS
Board of Education of Westside Community School District v. Mergens By and Through Mergens (1989, 8th Cir.) 867 F.2d 1076
Student Coalition for Peace v. Lower Merion School District Board of Directors, (1985) 776 F.2d. 431

Policy FRESNO UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
adopted: March 26, 1992 Fresno, California
revised: May 20, 2020

Policy Section: 6000 Instruction