

As a student, can I start a group at my school?

If you are a middle or high school student in a school which receives Federal financial assistance (public) and your school has a limited open forum, the answer is yes.

***What is a limited open forum?**

A public secondary school has a limited open forum whenever such school grants an offering to or opportunity for one or more non-curriculum related student groups to meet on school premises during non-instructional time.

***When is non-instructional time?**

Before school, after school or during lunch.

Are we required to provide the school with a club constitution and/or bylaws?

If your group is not meeting on “club day” or during club period, then you should not be required to provide these items. If your First Priority club does not require membership forms or fees, or formal requirements to participate, then your club is a “meeting” not a formal club gathering. If, however, your club meets during “club day” or during a club period, you may be required to provide such paperwork as required by the administration. The rule is “all or none”.

What is “all or none”?

If one club must provide paper work or has access to resources, then all clubs do. If one club is told no, then the “no” applies to all clubs. The “no” cannot be based on content or purpose of the club or meeting.

What if we missed club sign up day? Can we still meet?

If one or more non-curriculum related student group is allowed to meet on school premises during non-instructional time, then yes. Your group, however, may not be permitted to meet during club day or club period.

Can we put “church”, Jesus or religious verbiage on our signs or posters?

The school may not discriminate based on content of the signs unless there is obscene language/pictures or incites violence.

***Can the school require us to have a minimum number of students to start a group/club?** No. This is clearly stated under the terms of the Equal Access Act.