

## **801 EQUAL ACCESS TO FACILITIES**

### **I. PURPOSE**

The purpose of this policy is to implement the Equal Access Act by granting equal access to school facilities for student groups who wish to conduct a meeting for religious, political, or philosophical purposes during noninstructional time.

### **II. GENERAL STATEMENT OF POLICY**

- A. The policy of Stonebridge World School is not to deny equal access or a fair opportunity to, or to discriminate against, any student groups who wish to conduct a meeting based on the religious, political, philosophical, or other content of the speech at such meetings.
- B. The Board of Directors has created a limited open forum for students enrolled in during which no curriculum-related student groups shall have equal access and a fair opportunity to conduct meetings during noninstructional time. This forum is expressly limited to students currently attending Stonebridge World School.
- C. The use of facilities under this policy does not imply Stonebridge World School's sponsorship, approval, or advocacy of the content of the expression at such meetings.
- D. Stonebridge World School retains its authority to maintain order and discipline on school premises, to protect the well-being of students and faculty, and to assure that attendance of students at meetings is voluntary.
- E. Stonebridge World School accords equal treatment of and access to all religions.
- F. In adopting and implementing this equal access policy, Stonebridge World School will NOT:
  - 1. influence the form or content of any prayer or other religious activity;
  - 2. require any person to participate in prayer or other religious activity;
  - 3. expend public funds beyond the incidental cost of providing the space for student-initiated meetings;
  - 4. compel any Stonebridge World School employee to attend a school meeting if the content of the speech at the meeting is contrary to the beliefs of the employee;

5. sanction meetings that are otherwise unlawful;
6. limit the rights of groups of students based on the size of the group
7. abridge the constitutional rights of any person.

### **III. DEFINITIONS**

- A. "Access" means providing physical access to meeting spaces on school premises. It also includes providing the types of recognition and privileges afforded to other groups at the school. Such privileges include, for example, the right of student groups to use school media, including the public address system, the school newspaper, and the school bulletin board to announce their meetings on the same terms as other non-curriculum related student groups. Any policy concerning the use of school media must be applied to all non-curriculum-related student groups in a non-discriminatory manner.
- B. "Limited open forum" means Stonebridge World school provides an opportunity for at least one "non-curriculum related student group" to hold meetings on premises leased by the charter school during "non-instructional time".
- C. "Meeting" meeting may include a prayer service, Bible reading, or other worship exercise.
- D. "Non-curricular student groups" means it does not directly relate to the body of courses offered at the charter school. A student group does not directly relate to the school's curriculum if:
  1. The group's subject matter is not being taught or will not soon be taught in a regularly offered course at the school.
  2. The group's subject matter does not concern the body of school courses as a whole;
  3. Participation in the group is not required for a particular course; and
  4. No academic credit is awarded as a result of participation in the group.
- D. "Non-instructional time" is time set aside by the school before actual classroom instruction begins or after actual instruction ends. It includes student meetings that take place before or after school as well as those occurring during lunch, "activity periods," and other non-instructional times during the day.

### **IV. FAIR OPPORTUNITY CRITERIA**

The following limitations apply to non-curricular student groups that seek equal access to school facilities:

- A. Meetings must be voluntary, and student initiated.

- B. Meetings may not be sponsored by the school, school officials, the government, or any of the agents or employees of those groups. (“Sponsored” includes leading, promoting, or participating in the meeting. It does not include the assignment of a teacher or other school official to the meeting for supervisory purposes.)
- C. School officials, employees, or agents are present at religious meetings only in a non-participatory role;
- D. Meetings do not materially and substantially interfere with the orderly conduct of educational activities within the school.
- E. Non-school persons do not direct, control, or regularly attend activities of the non-curricular student groups.

## **V. PROCEDURES**

A. Any student who wishes to initiate a meeting under this policy shall apply to the principal of the building at least 48 hours in advance of the time of the activity or meeting. The student must agree to the following:

1. All activities or meetings must comply with existing policies, regulations, and procedures that govern operation of school-sponsored activities.
2. The activities or meetings are voluntary, and student initiated. The principal may require assurances of this fact.

B. Student groups meeting under this policy must comply with the following rules:

1. Those attending must not engage in any activity that is illegal, dangerous, or which materially and substantially interferes with the orderly conduct of the educational activities of the school. Such activities shall be grounds for discipline of an individual student and grounds for a particular group to be denied access.
2. The groups may not use the school’s name, school’s mascot name, school’s emblems, or any name that might imply school sponsorship or affiliation in any activity, including fundraising and community involvement.
3. The groups must comply with school policies, regulations and procedures governing school-sponsored activities.
4. Improper behavior during meetings or damage to property may result in denial of future access and charges for repair or replacement.

C. Students applying for use of school facilities under this policy must provide the following information to the principal: time and date of meeting, estimated number of students in attendance, and special equipment needs.

D. The building principal has responsibility to:

1. Keep a log of application information.
2. Find and assign a suitable room for the meeting or activity. The number of students in attendance will be limited to the safe capacity of the meeting space.
3. Note the condition of the facilities and equipment before and after use.
4. Assure proper supervision. Assignment of staff to be present in a supervisory capacity does not constitute School District sponsorship of the meeting or activity.
5. Assure that the meeting or activity does not interfere with the school's regular instructional activities.

E. The School shall not expend public funds for the benefit of students meeting pursuant to this policy beyond the incidental cost of providing space. The School will provide no additional or special transportation.

F. Non-school persons may not direct, conduct, control, or regularly attend meetings and activities held pursuant to this policy.

G. School district employees or agents may not promote, lead, participate in or otherwise sponsor meetings or activities held pursuant to this Policy.

H. A copy of this policy and procedures shall be made available to each student who initiates a request to use school facilities.

Approved: 11/21/11  
Revised: November 2025

# STONEBRIDGE World School



## Application for Use of Facilities Form Equal Access Act Meeting

### Statement of Policy

It is the policy of Stonebridge World School to grant equal access to school facilities for students who wish to conduct a meeting for religious, political, or philosophical discussion during noninstructional time, pursuant to the Equal Access Act. Provision of school facilities does not constitute Stonebridge World School's sponsorship of such meeting, and the views expressed therein may or may not reflect those of the school administration, staff, or Board of Directors and are neither approved nor disapproved by them.

Name of Student Initiating Request: \_\_\_\_\_

Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Meeting: \_\_\_\_\_

Time: \_\_\_\_\_

Estimated Number to Attend: \_\_\_\_\_

Special Equipment Needs:

\_\_\_\_\_

(Office Use Only)

Approved:  Yes  No

Room Assigned: \_\_\_\_\_

Condition of Facilities: \_\_\_\_\_

Staff (if any) Assigned to Supervise: \_\_\_\_\_

Notes: