

Bloomington Jefferson- Types of Clubs/Groups and Responsibilities

High School clubs/groups are administration approved student-based school organizations functioning with myriads of tasks, varying on the specific purpose of each respective club. Student Clubs/Groups are under the supervision of adults as advising figures to maintain the functionality of clubs.

School-sponsored Club (curricular or non-curricular)

- Student Clubs may not duplicate an existing high school extra-curricular program. Activities under consideration by the Minnesota State High School League (MSHSL) will be given preferred consideration.
- Student Clubs may NOT be political, religious, philosophical or other content.
- All participants must be current students of Bloomington Jefferson High School (Grades 9-12). Students below Grade 9 are not eligible to participate unless the parent organization requirements are met.
- Provides opportunities for students of similar interests to gather/communicate/organize/compete.
- Has a minimum of 12 participants at all times (including all regular meetings).
- Must have regularly scheduled meetings or practices during non-instructional time at Bloomington Jefferson High School.
- May have the opportunity to compete with other high schools.
- May have a Bloomington Jefferson High School staff member or an adult that is not a Bloomington Jefferson staff member act as a participatory (school club) advisor and supervises all events (see *Club Advisor Responsibility Form*). If the advisor is a non-staff member, he/she will be required to undergo a Bloomington Public Schools background check at their own expense.
- If there is a team component and public competition where club competes with other high school teams in a league or regularly scheduled contests, the group will be allowed to use the high school's official logo, nickname and school colors in its competitions.
- Any costs associated with the club will be incurred by the club members and collected by the club advisor and deposited according to Bloomington Public School procedures.
- A club may be denied access to the school setting if it is seen as a threat to the safety and welfare of the student body or if the meetings materially and substantially interfere with the orderly conduct of educational activities within the school.
- Follows the Bloomington Jefferson MSHSL Level II Activity Policy as it pertains to tobacco and chemical use/possession; and racial/religious/sexual harassment/violence penalties for students in arts and activities.
- Student Club participants may letter if they meet the Bloomington Jefferson High School Lettering Requirements. (see Lettering Requirements on the next page)
- The following are examples of school-sponsored clubs that **may** be approved: Spanish Club, Scuba Club, French Club, Table Tennis, Economics/Investment Club, Bowling, Trap, Robotics, Ultimate Frisbee.
- All student clubs/groups are required to fill out a Renewal Application in order to be recognized each school year.

Independent Provider (extra-curricular)

- Independent Providers are activities sponsored by an individual, group, organization or agency that provides an opportunity for students to participate in a program that is not currently available in schools.
- Organizations/individuals interested in applying for Independent Provider status to organize a competitive club/team must contact the respective high school Office of Activities, or the Principal for all other schools to receive an application packet. Independent Providers of a club/team must complete and submit all items within the application packet for approval consideration. Approval as an Independent Provider for a co-curricular or club/team is granted on an annual basis.

- Independent Providers will assume sole responsibility for and control of the club/team and its operational activities both organizationally and financially.
- Independent Providers are required to include the following disclaimer to be written in large type on the front of all written communications or notices to students, parents, and the community clearly indicating the activity is not a school-sponsored activity “This activity is not school- or district-sponsored. Bloomington Public Schools accepts no responsibility for this program or activity.”
- District staff, including coaches and advisors, who offer activities on school property that are not sponsored by the school or District are considered Independent Providers and are subject to the same facility rental fees and regulations required of all Independent Providers.
- Independent Providers who use the District or school name, mascot, or logo in communications regarding their activity and/or fundraising may not in any way suggest and/or misrepresent the activity or program as school or district endorsed. All written communications should include the following statement: “This activity is not school or district sponsored. Bloomington Public Schools accepts no responsibility for this program or activity.”
- Independent Providers who refuse to use the above disclaimer may be subject to legal action for misrepresentation and may be denied continued use of district facilities.
- Criteria for Independent Providers:
 - A. The Independent Club may not duplicate an existing school district activity and must follow all district policies.
 - B. Activities under consideration by the Minnesota State High School League (MSHSL) will be given preferred consideration. Other activities may be approved in exceptional circumstances.
 - C. All participants in the independent provider program must be fully enrolled students in Bloomington Jefferson High School in grades 9-12. Students below grade 9 are not eligible to participate unless the parent organization requirements are met.
 - D. There must be a team component and public competition where this group competes with other high school teams in a league or regularly scheduled contests. The team will be allowed to use the high school official logo, nickname and school colors in its competitions.
- The following are examples of Independent clubs that **may** be approved: Bowling, Rugby, Ultimate Frisbee

Limited Open Forum

- “Limited open forum” means the 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.
- All clubs/groups must abide by School Board policies regarding Equal Access to School Facilities ([Policy/Regulation 801](#)).
- There is no sponsorship of the meeting by the school or its agents or employees.
- May be political, religious, philosophical or other content that does not materially and substantially interfere with the orderly conduct of educational activities within the school.
- Must be student-initiated and student-led.
- Non-school persons may not direct, conduct, control, or regularly attend meetings and activities held pursuant to this policy. **(THIS IS IN DISTRICT POLICY)**
- Non-school persons are not allowed to meet with non-curriculum related student groups during the limited open forum. **(THIS IS IN DISTRICT POLICY)**
- A School District employee is required, and must act as a non-participatory advisor (see *Club/Group Advisor Responsibility Form*) and be present at all on campus meetings.
- Meets outside of the school day or during noninstructional time.
 - If before/after-school activities occur on campus outside the staff contract day, activity and facility forms must be filled out in the district office, as with any other non-school sponsored organization. The approval and fees will be dealt with on that basis and paid by that organization. Contact: Building Reservations Office, (952) 681-5283.

- Since the activity is not school-sponsored, the school and its personnel are not responsible to oversee or chaperone outside activities that extend past the staff contract day.
- A Limited Open Forum student group may be denied access to the school setting if it is seen as a threat to the safety and welfare of the student body, or if the meetings materially and substantially interfere with the orderly conduct of educational activities within the school.

Club Responsibilities

Meetings/Activities

- Meetings or activities must occur during non-instructional time.
- Meetings or activities do not materially and substantially interfere with the orderly conduct of educational activities within the school.

Advertisements

- School Clubs and Limited Open Forum Student Groups may advertise or hang posters at Bloomington Jefferson High School.
- All posters and flyers must be approved by the Principal (or designee) prior to display on campus.
- Posters and flyers are allowed to be displayed for up to two (2) weeks.

Lettering Requirements

The following criteria will determine if participation in a student club/group warrants the members an official letter on behalf of Bloomington Jefferson High School.

1. The club/group must have a team competition component, some part of which must be held in Minnesota, must be against other high school programs or clubs, and must be organized in such a way that the general public is aware of and may attend if they choose. The competitions must use a set of standardized rules or guidelines for play, teams must be able to compete against other teams of similar age, and there must be officials or judges who apply a standard set of judging criteria.
2. The individual members of the team must have a time commitment similar to other school district activities in which a letter may be earned (around 150 hours).
3. The participation must be at an advanced rather than an entry level.

**If a student is awarded a letter for their participation in a club/group, the student is responsible for the cost of the letter as determined by the activities department.