

3260 RELATIONS WITH BOOSTER ORGANIZATIONS

The Board of Education recognizes that extracurricular support groups, or "Booster" Organizations, provide important support to District schools, and can be a valuable means of stimulating community interest in the aims and activities of District Schools. Booster organizations may be defined in two ways:

- a) An organization which is created to foster community support and raise funds for a specific extracurricular activity (e.g., athletics, speech and debate, and/or musical groups);
or
- b) An organization which is created to foster community support and raise funds for the school's general extracurricular program.

Parents and other interested members of the community who wish to organize a Booster Organization for the purpose of supporting a specific school program are encouraged to do so, as long as the activities of such organizations do not interfere with the total educational program, or disrupt District operations in any way. Booster Organizations must follow Administrative Regulations and Procedures.

If a Booster Organization wishes to make a contribution of money, service time, or tangible property (e.g., equipment or supplies), a representative of the organization should first meet with the Building Principal/designee. The Building Principal/designee must review the District's terms and conditions for accepting such gifts, and seek official approval from the Superintendent, his designee and/or the Board of Education, if required, prior to the group initiating fund raising activities for a specific purpose.

Booster-proposed plans, projects and other activities must be evaluated and promoted in light of their stated contribution to the academic as well as the extra-curricular school programs. Careful consideration should be given to the total value of the contribution to all students, and not just to specified student groups.

The Board of Education retains final responsibility and authority on all activities which have an impact on students, the schools, school programs, and/or school-owned property.

The District has a responsibility under Title IX to ensure that boys' and girls' programs are provided with equivalent benefits, treatment, services and opportunities regardless of their source. When determining equivalency, benefits, services and opportunities attained through the use of private funds (e.g., "booster clubs"), such funds are considered in combination with all benefits, services and opportunities.

Private fundraising, including student-initiated fundraising, is permissible under Title IX. Further, compliance with Title IX does not mean that teams must "share" proceeds from fundraising activities. It does, however, place a responsibility on the District to ensure that benefits, services, treatment and opportunities overall, regardless of funding sources, are equivalent for male and female athletes.

In accordance with OCR, in order for the District to be in continuing compliance with Title IX requirements, the District must assure that services, benefits and opportunities in its

athletic programs are provided on an equivalent basis to both boys and girls, including those services, benefits and opportunities that are provided through the use of outside financial assistance such as donations, fundraising by coaches, and booster clubs.