

Community Relations

School-Community Associations

The CREC Council recognizes school-community groups such as Parent-Teacher Associations and other parent/guardian support groups as integral parts of the school community which can promote better educational programs.

The CREC Council encourages active support of and cooperation with school-community organizations.

Among the many services which such associations can offer, the CREC Council especially endorses support for parent/guardian/citizen volunteer programs in our schools.

Policy adopted: November 17, 2004

CAPITOL REGION EDUCATION COUNCIL
Hartford, Connecticut

Community Relations

School-Community Associations

The CREC Council recognizes that school-community associations such as parent organizations and extracurricular support groups, or “booster clubs,” provide important support and can be valuable means of stimulating community interest in the aims and activities of CREC schools/programs. Such associations may be defined in two ways:

1. An organization created to foster community support and provide resources for a particular sport or activity in the school or school system
2. An organization created to foster community support and raise funds for the school's general extracurricular program.

While school-community associations have no administrative authority and cannot determine CREC policy, the CREC Council welcomes their suggestions and assistance.

School-community associations may be recognized by the CREC Council and be permitted to use the CREC name, a CREC school's name, or a CREC school's team name, or any CREC logo, provided they first receive the Executive Director or designee's express written consent. Consent to use one of the above-mentioned names or logos will generally be granted if the school-community association has bylaws containing the following:

1. The organization's or club's name and purpose, such as, to enhance students' educational experiences, to help meet educational needs of students, to provide extra athletic benefits to students, to assist specific sports teams or academic clubs through financial support, or to enrich extracurricular activities.
2. The rules and procedures under which it operates.
3. An agreement to adhere to all CREC policies and administrative procedures.
4. A statement that membership is open and unrestricted, meaning that membership is open to parents/guardians of students enrolled in the school/program, district staff, and community members or an agreement not to engage in discrimination based on someone's innate characteristics or membership in a suspect classification.
5. A statement that CREC is not, and will not be, responsible for the organization's or club's business or the conduct of its members.

6. An agreement to maintain and protect its own finances. The group must maintain bank, financial, and tax-exempt status separate from CREC or a CREC school/program; and that the organization will provide to CREC annually or upon request a complete set of financial records or detailed treasurer's report.
7. A recognition that money given to a school/program cannot be earmarked for any particular expense. Associations may make recommendations, but cash or other valuable consideration must be given to CREC to use at its discretion. The CREC Council's legal obligation to comply with Title IX by providing equal athletic opportunity for members of both genders will supersede an association or club's recommendation.

Parents/Guardians and other interested community members who wish to organize a school-community association for the purpose of supporting a specific school program or activity are encouraged to do so as long as the activities of such organizations do not interfere unduly with the total educational program or disrupt CREC operations in any way. To this end, school-community associations must follow these guidelines:

1. Be voluntary.
2. Encourage involvement by all parents/guardians of students participating in the supported activity.
3. Submit the name, address, and telephone number of all current officers to the Executive Director's/designee's office by September 1st each year.
4. Submit an activity schedule in advance to the Executive Director or designee for prior approval. Any time a booster club uses the name of CREC or any language suggesting that CREC has endorsed, sponsored, or otherwise approved of the club's activities, there must be prior approval by the Executive Director or designee.
5. Seek advance approval for any use of school facilities and/or equipment and such use will comply with all policies and regulations established by CREC.
6. Provide evidence of adequate insurance coverage for activities conducted on school premises.
7. Avoid interference with any previously approved student activity.
8. Seek approval in advance of all fundraising activities from the school principal/program director.
9. Ensure that all fundraising activities are optional for students and parents/guardians with no repercussions for those choosing not to participate.
10. Maintain financial ledgers for all revenues and expenditures and receipts for expenditures.

11. Comply with administrative regulations and CREC policies when donating money or gifts to CREC.
12. Understand and respect the authority of CREC employees in the administration of their duties.
13. Assume all financial responsibility for the association, including but not limited to the provision of adequate insurance coverage, as appropriate.
14. Provide required headings and disclaimers at the top/bottom of ALL association website pages. (Heading example: CREC Academy of Aerospace of Engineering Boosters; Disclaimer language example: This site is produced and maintained by the CREC Academy of Aerospace of Engineering Athletic Booster Club and is not officially affiliated or supported by CREC or CREC Academy of Aerospace of Engineering.)

If a school-community association wishes to make a contribution of money, service time, or tangible property such as equipment or supplies, a representative of the association must first meet with the Executive Director or designee. The Executive Director or designee must identify CREC's terms and conditions of accepting such gifts in concert with CREC's policy pertaining to gifts, grants, and bequests.

School-community associations' proposed plans, projects, and other activities will be evaluated and promoted in light of their stated contribution to the academic as well as the extracurricular school programs. Careful consideration shall be given to the total value of the contribution to all students and not just to specific student groups.

CREC retains final responsibility and authority on all activities which have an impact on students, schools/programs, and/or school-owned property.

CREC reserves the right to revoke recognition of any community-school association if it is found that the group's operations and purposes are inconsistent with CREC policies.