

The Student Council Advisor and the Principal

THE PRINCIPAL'S VIEW:

1. Student Council Advisors MUST recognize their leadership role and its responsibilities.
 - a. The Advisor should realize his/her own teacher/leader position and its role on campus
 - b. Student Council Advisors should observe responsible ethical standards
 - c. Student Council membership should set the example of constructive leadership
 - d. Student Council Members should take the initiative in developing and implementing constructive programs
 - e. Student Council should recognize and respect the responsibility of setting proper examples in leadership as individuals and as a group
 - f. The Student Council Advisor should lead students to understand the need-for and support-of administrative policies and guidelines
 - g. The Student Council should fulfill delegated responsibility – such as welcoming visitors, assisting in orderly procedures, assist with planning and implementing school events, etc. and do so in a manner that benefits and promotes the highest ideals of the school
 - h. The Advisor and the Student Council should accept the responsibility of the work Student Council does as an educational opportunity rather than a “chore”
2. General Administrative Concerns:
 - a. The participation of a school in any activity is done only with the approval and cooperation of the school Principal
 - b. The program should be so organized that it will encourage economy of school time and resources for both students and staff who participate in the activity program
 - c. Only those activities which relate to the purposes and functions of the school should be sanctioned by Administration
 - d. Economy is encouraged when spending money for the activities program. Many projects can support themselves.
 - e. Long trips by large numbers of students can often be discouraged
 - f. Time devoted to activity supervision by teachers should be evaluated in terms of total teaching load and the purposes of education
 - g. Student participation in activities is evaluated in terms of total scholastic and activity load as well as types of learning experiences selected.
 - h. An extended school day and school week is sometimes demanded to conserve time for the regular academic program for both the teacher and the student, but the educational values gained should be part of the regular school day and this requires increased Student Council activity
 - i. High personal standards of scholarship, sportsmanship, citizenship, and character are encouraged for participants involved in all activities.
 - j. Long-range planning and organization for the entire program is imperative.
3. Specific Administrative Concerns:
 - a. All activities must be cleared with the Principal or designated director of school activities.
 - b. The program is planned to benefit the entire school community and must keep the big picture in mind.
 - c. All school contests, meets, festivals, tournaments, clinics, and assemblies must be held when regularly scheduled school day instruction can continue with the least interruption.
 - d. The cost of financing contests, meets, festivals, tournaments, clinics, and assemblies must be kept to a minimum and should not be a burden to parents, students, or the community.
 - e. Standards and guidelines should be established to indicate whether a student may participate or not participate usually based upon academics.
 - f. Activities must not be sponsored by the school without proper supervision, control or coordination.
 - g. School regulations should be set for awards, honors, and recognitions for participation in the activities program.
 - h. Participation must not be permitted in activities which will cause an violation of any school regulatory agency.
4. The Bottom Line
 - a. The Student Council is an essential part of the school's co-curricular program. Students learn best when they are involved, when their opinions count, when “their school” is the “the best school around.” The Student Council Advisor is the crucial element. His/her guidance an concern will help young people attain the stature, the motivation, the success required to keep activities an essential part of the curricular offerings of the school. The objectives – citizenship, scholarship, leadership, human values, are but just a few of the objectives of American education. The means for attaining these purposes differ from the methods of the academic program, but the aims are identical. All decisions must be made in terms of educational relevance!