

## 380 SUPPORT FOR STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS

### Background

The Division encourages the principal and professional staff to make available the opportunity for students to experience belonging to formal and informal associations which operate within the school setting **and** are under the guidance of a professional staff member(s) and which are responsible to the Principal.

### Procedures

1. If one or more students attending a school operated by a board request a staff member employed by the board for support to establish a voluntary student organization, or to lead an activity intended to promote a welcoming, caring, respectful and safe learning environment that respects diversity and fosters a sense of belonging, the principal of the school shall
  - a. immediately grant permission for the establishment of the student organization or the holding of the activity at the school, and
  - b. subject to 35.1 of *The Education Act*, within a reasonable time from the date that the principal receives the request designate a staff member to serve as the staff liaison to facilitate the establishment, and the ongoing operation of the student organization or to assist in organizing the activity
2. The students may select a respectful and inclusive name for the organization or activity, including the name “gay-straight alliance” or “queer-straight alliance”, after consulting with the principal.
  - a. For greater certainty, the principal shall not prohibit or discourage students from choosing a name that includes “gay-straight alliance” or “queer-straight alliance”.
3. The principal shall immediately inform the board and the Minister if no staff member is available to serve as a staff liaison referred to in 35.1 subsection (4) of *The Education Act*, and if so informed, the Minister shall appoint a responsible adult to work with the requesting students in organizing the activity or to facilitate the establishment, and the ongoing operation of the student organization at the school.

## References

Section 11,31,33,35.1,52,53,196,197,222 Education Act  
Guidelines for Best Practices: Creating Learning Environments that Respect Diverse Sexual Orientations, Gender Identities, and Gender Expressions (Alberta Government)  
Canadian Rockies Public Schools Administrative Procedures 170, 171, 172, 351  
Canadian Rockies Public Schools Code of Conduct  
Alberta Human Rights  
Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms  
Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act  
Bill 24 - An Act to Support Gay Straight Alliances

## History

Developed: August 2003  
Amended: May 2018  
Amended: February 2020