

Section 4059, Pub. L. 98-377, title VII, §709, Aug. 11, 1984, 98 Stat. 1301; Pub. L. 99-159, title II, §264, Nov. 22, 1985, 99 Stat. 902, related to prohibitions on use of grants.

Section 4060, Pub. L. 98-377, title VII, §710, Aug. 11, 1984, 98 Stat. 1301, related to limitation on payments.

Section 4061, Pub. L. 98-377, title VII, §711, Aug. 11, 1984, 98 Stat. 1301; Pub. L. 98-558, title VII, §702, Oct. 30, 1984, 98 Stat. 2900, related to payments.

Section 4062, Pub. L. 98-377, title VII, §712, Aug. 11, 1984, 98 Stat. 1302, related to withholding.

For similar provisions, see section 7201 et seq. of this title.

EFFECTIVE DATE OF REPEAL

Repeal effective July 1, 1988, see section 6303 of Pub. L. 100-297, set out as an Effective Date of 1988 Amendment note under section 1071 of this title.

SUBCHAPTER VIII—EQUAL ACCESS

§ 4071. Denial of equal access prohibited

(a) Restriction of limited open forum on basis of religious, political, philosophical, or other speech content prohibited

It shall be unlawful for any public secondary school which receives Federal financial assistance and which has a limited open forum to deny equal access or a fair opportunity to, or discriminate against, any students who wish to conduct a meeting within that limited open forum on the basis of the religious, political, philosophical, or other content of the speech at such meetings.

(b) "Limited open forum" defined

A public secondary school has a limited open forum whenever such school grants an offering to or opportunity for one or more noncurriculum related student groups to meet on school premises during noninstructional time.

(c) Fair opportunity criteria

Schools shall be deemed to offer a fair opportunity to students who wish to conduct a meeting within its limited open forum if such school uniformly provides that—

- (1) the meeting is voluntary and student-initiated;
- (2) there is no sponsorship of the meeting by the school, the government, or its agents or employees;
- (3) employees or agents of the school or government are present at religious meetings only in a nonparticipatory capacity;
- (4) the meeting does not materially and substantially interfere with the orderly conduct of educational activities within the school; and
- (5) nonschool persons may not direct, conduct, control, or regularly attend activities of student groups.

(d) Construction of subchapter with respect to certain rights

Nothing in this subchapter shall be construed to authorize the United States or any State or political subdivision thereof—

- (1) to influence the form or content of any prayer or other religious activity;
- (2) to require any person to participate in prayer or other religious activity;
- (3) to expend public funds beyond the incidental cost of providing the space for student-initiated meetings;

(4) to compel any school agent or employee to attend a school meeting if the content of the speech at the meeting is contrary to the beliefs of the agent or employee;

(5) to sanction meetings that are otherwise unlawful;

(6) to limit the rights of groups of students which are not of a specified numerical size; or

(7) to abridge the constitutional rights of any person.

(e) Federal financial assistance to schools unaffected

Notwithstanding the availability of any other remedy under the Constitution or the laws of the United States, nothing in this subchapter shall be construed to authorize the United States to deny or withhold Federal financial assistance to any school.

(f) Authority of schools with respect to order, discipline, well-being, and attendance concerns

Nothing in this subchapter shall be construed to limit the authority of the school, its agents or employees, to maintain order and discipline on school premises, to protect the well-being of students and faculty, and to assure that attendance of students at meetings is voluntary.

(Pub. L. 98-377, title VIII, §802, Aug. 11, 1984, 98 Stat. 1302.)

SHORT TITLE

Pub. L. 98-377, title VIII, §801, Aug. 11, 1984, 98 Stat. 1302, provided that: "This title [enacting this subchapter] may be cited as 'The Equal Access Act'."

§ 4072. Definitions

As used in this subchapter—

(1) The term "secondary school" means a public school which provides secondary education as determined by State law.

(2) The term "sponsorship" includes the act of promoting, leading, or participating in a meeting. The assignment of a teacher, administrator, or other school employee to a meeting for custodial purposes does not constitute sponsorship of the meeting.

(3) The term "meeting" includes those activities of student groups which are permitted under a school's limited open forum and are not directly related to the school curriculum.

(4) The term "noninstructional time" means time set aside by the school before actual classroom instruction begins or after actual classroom instruction ends.

(Pub. L. 98-377, title VIII, §803, Aug. 11, 1984, 98 Stat. 1303.)

§ 4073. Severability

If any provision of this subchapter or the application thereof to any person or circumstances is judicially determined to be invalid, the provisions of the remainder of the subchapter and the application to other persons or circumstances shall not be affected thereby.

(Pub. L. 98-377, title VIII, §804, Aug. 11, 1984, 98 Stat. 1304.)

§ 4074. Construction

The provisions of this subchapter shall supersede all other provisions of Federal law that are