



Meeting with the Principal

Most principals will positively welcome students trying to start a Christian club, but:

- Don't assume the principal will say "yes."
- The principal may feel you are ahead of the game if you have already chosen the teacher, room, and time.
- Allow the principal to feel like he or she is a part of the process.
- Request help from the principal. Do not simply tell him what you are going to do.

Questions to Ask:

- Are there any district policies, handbook rules, and regulation regarding campus clubs?
- The federal law is covered by the Equal Access Act. What is the local application?
- How does this school start clubs?
- Are there initial regulations? (e.g., minimum number of students, must be chartered by student council, application forms, screening committee)
- May I have all the necessary forms for beginning a campus club? (Then work on them, and continue the process.)

Who makes the presentation to the principal?

- Students with a positive relationship with the principal.
- Students currently active in the school.
- Students who are good spokespersons (may not be the club's leaders).
- Avoid student presenters who may have been in the face of the principal, or have pushed legal rights that could carry a negative connotation.

Other Tips:

- Students should show that the club is student-initiated and student-led, not adult-driven. This will strengthen your chances of being allowed to start a club.
- Most setbacks involve new administrators or principals. They are usually cautious because they have never dealt with this issue before or there were problems with the last Christian club they dealt with.

Compiled from a conversation between Steve Pulis, Youth Alive Missionary, and Bud Greve, former public school superintendent and principal in Springfield, Mo.