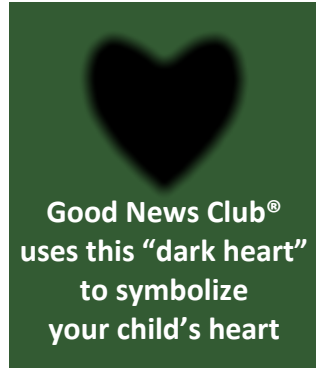


# Protect Our Children

School districts should incorporate child protection provisions into their facility use policies to protect their students' well-being. No after-school club for students should threaten a child's psychological, emotional, or intellectual well-being.

Public schools cannot legally exclude some non-curricular after-school clubs, while allowing others, merely on church-state separation grounds. But school districts can, and should, enact policies to shelter students — especially elementary school children — from **hurtful and predatory outside groups**.

Such groups, both religious and secular, can be identified by familiar practices and approaches:



◆ **They attack a child's fundamental sense of self-worth by:**

- Attempting to make a child feel ashamed and unacceptable;
- Making a child feel that safety, love, and belonging are conditional, requiring full commitment to the group or its ideology;
- Frightening a child with superstitious threats; *or*
- Telling a child that he or she deserves to die, be tortured, or suffer extreme punishment.

◆ **They engage in authoritarian conditioning by:**

- Intimidating a child from thinking openly — through shame, fear, conditional affirmation, and other attempts at thought control — and discouraging the child's development of a moral, social, and/or spiritual identity in conditions of freedom and dignity; *or*
- Demanding commitment to a totalistic ideology and discouraging critical thinking or the rational adaptation of that ideology to scientific evidence.

◆ **They use a form of psychological manipulation known as traumatic bonding, characterized by:**

- Frequent, intermittent or periodic traumatizing conduct that induces emotional trauma, such as instilling shame or fear; *and*
- Alternating implicit and explicit threats with intensely positive conduct, such as providing gifts, sweets, kindness, or affection.

Go to [regulate.goodnewsclubs.info](http://regulate.goodnewsclubs.info) for more information

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