

A Win for Religious Liberty: School Reverses Ban on Christian Club

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←The Christian Club at Ward-Melville High School. (Courtesy John Raney)

A New York high school reversed its decision to ban Christian students from forming a club under the threat of a federal discrimination lawsuit.

Administrators at Ward Melville High School in Long Island said they will grant Students United in Faith permission to meet on campus.

“Please be advised the district has decided to alter its position on this issue,” wrote John Sheahan, an attorney for the Three Village Central School District. “In light of this change, the district will grant SUIF recognition as a student group for the 2014-15 school year and reverses any contrary decision.”

Their decision came two days after [I told you about the district’s bullying](#). The school district’s attorney wrote that it “generally denied” accusations they had violated the Equal Access Act.

“We are hoping that the school doesn’t make this an annual tradition of violating the Equal Access Act,” said Liberty Institute attorney Hiram Sasser.

Liberty Institute is a law firm that specializes in religious liberty cases. They represented club founders John Raney and Jeremy Johnson. The boys wanted to start the club to provide a safe space for Christian teenagers as well as perform community service projects.

Since the school had a fishing club and a Gay-Straight Alliance, Sasser said they were obligated to have a Christian club, too. “Simply put, public schools cannot discriminate against religious clubs and must treat them equally and provide them equal access to school facilities, as non-religious clubs,” he said.

The school district pulled the same stunt last year but reversed its ban after the students ...

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