



Overcoming Obstacles

The following is a simple strategy for overcoming obstacles in starting a campus club.

If the principal does not grant you permission for a Youth Alive campus club, ask why. He or she may simply need more time or information. If you are certain the principal is saying “no” instead of “wait,” then prayerfully approach the following.

1. Build Trust

- a. Concentrate on building trust with the administration and principal. Build credibility and confidence with them. Give them time to understand how your club will benefit the school.
- b. Initiate a service project that benefits the school.
- c. Establish a prayer strategy with your Christian friends and ask God for His favor on behalf of your need.

2. Education and/or Legal Action

- a. Even if you plan to protest the violation of your constitutional rights, start the club off-campus. Go ahead and move forward with your dream. Whatever you do, attempt to serve the school in every way possible.
- b. If the principal continues to refuse the start of a club, review the [The Equal Access Act](#) and [Inside the Schoolhouse Gates](#).

Share with your school authorities the legal truths concerning students’ constitutional rights.

- c. If other extracurricular clubs meet on your campus, share with the principal that any Bible clubs, prayer clubs, or other Christian clubs are afforded the same rights as these other student groups. Again, a clear understanding of the law will usually open the door for your club.
- d. If there is a continued denial of your right to meet on campus, one of the following organizations can help you deal with legal issues:
 - American Center for Law and Justice (ACLJ) <www.aclj.org>
 - National Legal Foundation <www.nlf.net>
 - The Rutherford Institute <www.rutherford.org>
 - Christian Legal Society <www.clsnet.org>