



Policy Number 3.4.1

Chapter: Administration

Title: Peaceful Assembly on Campus

**Division/Department: Administration/
Legal Affairs**

**Policy Administrator: Chief Administrative
Officer**

**Adoption Date: Interim Policy,
November 28, 2023**

1. PURPOSE

The Board of Directors of the Auraria Higher Education Center is committed to the principles of free speech and peaceful assembly guaranteed by the United States Constitution and the Colorado Constitution. It is the purpose of this policy to protect and enhance the free exchange of ideas on the Auraria Campus and to establish rules regarding time, place, and manner of speech and assembly.

2. DEFINITIONS

- 2.1. Assembly: Any purposeful gathering on Auraria Campus common exterior property by one or more persons whose conduct is peaceful and is in accordance with the law and AHEC rules, policies, and procedures. Assembly includes meetings, speeches, debates, demonstrations, marches, vigils, rallies, protests, and similar meetings or gatherings. For the purposes of this policy, “Assembly” does not include classes, meetings, or events held by AHEC or a Constituent Institution.
- 2.2. Auraria Campus: All grounds, buildings and facilities located within the boundaries of the Auraria Higher Education Center.
- 2.3. Auraria Higher Education Center or “AHEC”: The higher education complex established in Title 23, Article 70, of the Colorado Revised Statutes (C.R.S.) and located in the City and County of Denver.
- 2.4. Constituent Institution: As defined in C.R.S. § 23-70-101(b), an institution of higher education that is located at and within AHEC, including Community College of Denver, University of Colorado Denver, and Metropolitan State University of Denver.

3. POLICY

- 3.1. AHEC has designated the following areas for Assembly: the generally accessible, open outdoor areas on the Auraria campus, including the Tivoli Quad and Commons, Lawrence Street Mall, and 9th Street Park.
- 3.2. Individuals and groups may hold an Assembly or distribute information in the designated areas provided that:
 - 3.2.1. They comply with the law and AHEC policies.
 - 3.2.2. Their activity does not threaten to incite a riot, violence, or an immediate breach of the peace.
 - 3.2.3. Their activity does not present a threat to health or safety of persons or damage to property.
 - 3.2.4. Their activity does not interfere with the administration or conduct of campus business, normal campus functions, classes, regular schedules, or events.
 - 3.2.5. The activity does not unreasonably interfere with a pre-existing reservation or planned use of the location.
 - 3.2.6. The activity does not obstruct access to, or exit from, any building or enclosed area on the Auraria Campus.
 - 3.2.7. The activity does not impede vehicular or pedestrian traffic.
- 3.3. Assemblies are prohibited inside Auraria Campus buildings and classroom facilities.
- 3.4. To assure that the desired location is available for an Assembly, reservations are recommended and accepted by the AHEC Special Events Department (SED), and, in some circumstances, are required. SED may be contacted at 303-556-2755 or aces@ahec.edu. Reservations are required when:
 - An entire location is to be used for the activity, to the practical exclusion of others.
 - The activity includes installation of any structure, such as a tent, stage, scaffold, bleacher, etc.
 - Alcohol is to be served or permitted.
 - Amplified sound will be used.
- 3.5. Recognized student organizations are encouraged to work with their Student Activities/Student Life Offices and SED to ensure proper coordination. Other persons or organizations planning Assemblies on the Auraria Campus are strongly

encouraged to work with a campus entity, either a student organization or a recognized institutional department, and to coordinate their activities and plans in advance through SED to assure that other activities will not be impacted.

- 3.6. Noise levels should not interfere with classes, meetings, activities in progress, or the privacy of residence hall students, and may not violate applicable noise ordinances (typically 80 decibels measured at the nearest occupied academic or residential building).
- 3.7. The display of firearms or weapons and the illegal possession of firearms or weapons, as well as the possession of torches or other items with an open flame greater than one inch, sticks, poles, shields, or other items that may be used to cause injury are not permitted on the Auraria Campus. People may carry signs or flags so long as they are not attached to a stick or pole. See the [AHEC Weapons Policy](#).
- 3.8. Nothing in this Policy shall be construed to limit or constrain the duties and authority of AHEC and law enforcement authorities to maintain order and protect public safety. Persons refusing to vacate premises upon request are subject to immediate suspension of activities, and arrest under applicable municipal and state laws. Students or student organizations will be held to the standard of the Code of Conduct at their respective institutions during the Assembly.

4. APPROVAL AND ADOPTION

This Policy has been reviewed and approved by the Board of Directors for the Auraria Higher Education Center.

Date: November 28, 2023

Approved by: */s/ Colleen Walker*
AHEC Chief Executive Officer