

2430 CO-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

The Board believes that the educational goals and objectives of the district are best achieved by a diversity of learning experiences, some of which are more appropriately conducted outside the regular classroom program.

The purpose of extracurricular activities shall be:

1. To develop useful new capabilities in pupils that can expand learning and career opportunities;
2. To develop pupil initiative and provide for the exercise of responsibility;
3. To develop leadership capabilities and good organizational skills;
4. To aid pupils in the social skills; and
5. To enable pupils to explore a wider range of individual interests than might be available in the regular program.

For purposes of this policy, "extracurricular activities" shall be those activities which are sponsored or approved by the Board but are not regularly offered for credit toward graduation. Such activities shall generally be conducted outside the regular school day, available to pupils who voluntarily elect to participate, marked by pupil participation in the processes of initiation, planning, organizing and execution, and shall ordinarily include band, clubs, dramatic or musical presentations, and intramural and interscholastic sports.

Equal access to school facilities shall be granted to all activities that meet this definition.

In furtherance of this policy, the Superintendent periodically shall:

1. Assess the needs and extracurricular interests of the pupils of this district and recommend appropriate programs to the Board for approval;
2. Ensure the provision of competent guidance and supervision by staff in all approved programs;
3. Guard against the exploitation of pupils in such programs;
4. Provide for the continuing evaluation of the extracurricular program and staff;

5. Ensure that all extracurricular activities are conducted in compliance with the law and district policies relating to eligibility, that all extracurricular activities are open to all eligible pupils, and that all pupils are fully informed of the opportunities open to them.

The guidance goal for each pupil shall be a balanced program of appropriate academic studies and activities to be determined by the school staff, the parent(s) or legal guardian(s) and the pupil. Guidance is necessary to encourage non-participants, and to prevent the overenthusiastic from emphasizing activities at the cost of their academic performance.

Only persons in the employ of the Board of Education shall be permitted to organize district pupils during school time or during any recess in the school day for purposes of instruction or coaching or for conducting games, events, or contests in physical education or athletics.

No activity shall be considered to be under the sponsorship of this Board unless it has been approved by the Board on recommendation of the Superintendent. Fund-raising activities of extracurricular groups must be approved by the Board.

Student Extracurricular Activities and Related Organizations

All pupil extracurricular activities of the school district shall be identified as such in all descriptive and promotional literature. Each extra-curricular activity above grade level five shall be classified and likewise identified by the Building Principal in one of the following categories:

1. Team or Individual competitive – interscholastic;
2. Team or Individual competitive – intramural;
3. Team based non-competitive-club; or
4. Non-team based club or social organization.

Participation and continued eligibility for participation in activities classified under categories one or two shall be in accordance with written eligibility standards and rules established pursuant to State law or pursuant to district policy, and may include reasonable eligibility standards relating to academic standing, possession and/or demonstration of the requisite skills, personal commitment, and health necessary for safe participation, given the nature of the team activity and the risks associated with the activity. Participation and continued eligibility for participation in activities classified under category three may be conditioned upon reasonable eligibility standards relating to academic standing, possession and/or demonstration of the personal commitment, and health necessary for safe participation. Participation and continued eligibility for participation in activities classified under category four may be conditioned upon reasonable eligibility standards relating to possession of the health necessary for safe participation.

All extracurricular activities are subject to the provisions of Board policies relating to pupil discipline. All eligibility and continued participation standards shall include simple provisions for due process of non-disciplinary eligibility disputes by the supervisor or director of the activity or in such other manner as shall be approved by the Building Principal. All eligibility standards and rules governing continued participation shall be provided in writing to each participant on or before the start of the activity in each school year.

The formation of any and all organizations within a school must have the approval of the Principal and the Superintendent. Organizational by-laws shall require that pupils shall conduct themselves in keeping with the policies of the Board of Education and the school building conduct codes during all extra curricular organizational activities. Social events conducted under the auspices of school organizations must be approved by the Building Principal.

Commercial Sponsorship of Extra-curricular Activities

Extracurricular activities are considered a necessary and vital part of the school program, notwithstanding the informality of instruction and conduct attendant upon such activity. While such circumstances may reasonably allow for increased pupil exposure to commercial messages, the district nonetheless seeks to maintain its curricular control and to preserve its values relating to equal educational opportunity in the conduct of extra-curricular activities. Accordingly, except as otherwise specifically permitted by school district policy relating to advertising, commercial sponsorship of extracurricular activities is not permitted. Commercial entities seeking to make a gift in lieu of sponsorship will be appropriately recognized pursuant to Board Policy.

Superintendent Approval: Any exception to the prohibition on commercial activity and advertising shall be approved in advance by the Superintendent of Schools, upon receipt of documentation that the proposed activity meets the standards stated in this and related policies.

39 U.S.C.A. 1701 et seq.
N.J.S.A. 18A:11-3; 18A:42-2; 18A:42-5

Adopted: 27 April 2009