

R 2430 CO-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Pupils at Central High School and at Timberlane Middle School will follow the eligibility requirements established by this policy for participation in all extracurricular clubs and interscholastic activities, except those athletic activities regulated by the New Jersey State Interscholastic Athletic Association and Board Policy 2431.

Equal access to all extracurricular activities shall be afforded to all pupils regardless of race, color, creed, religion, sex, national origin, ancestry, social or economic status, or non-applicable handicap.

A. Good Disciplinary Standing

Pupils shall not be eligible to participate on any day during which a detention is served or during any period of suspension. Pupils at Central High School who serve more than three detentions, and/or suspensions during one term may, in the course of disciplinary proceedings, be disqualified from participating in specific extracurricular activities during the remainder of that term and during the following term.

B. Good Academic Standing

Pupils in grades six through twelve must be in good academic standing at the beginning of the school year, and remain in continuing good academic standing, in order to be eligible for extracurricular activities.

1. For pupils at Central High School, "good academic standing at the beginning of the school year" means successful completion of the previous year's requirements, with no failures. In addition, good academic standing requires:
  - a. For pupils entering grade ten, completion in grade nine of at least one fourth of the credits required to receive a school district State-endorsed high school diploma;
  - b. For pupils entering grade eleven, completion in grade ten of the same requirements as in A. above;
  - c. For pupils entering grade twelve, completion in grade eleven of the same requirements as in A. above.

"Continuing good academic standing" means the maintenance of passing grades in all subjects during the current year, and in grade twelve taking enough course credits to complete the high school graduation requirement by the end of the academic year. A pupil who begins the year not in good academic standing, but who maintains a passing grade in every subject during the first semester, may request consideration to participate in extracurricular activities at the beginning of the second semester. Participation in academically related coaching or tutoring groups may be exempt from the academic eligibility requirement at the Building Principal's discretion.

2. For pupils at Timberlane Middle School, "good academic standing at the beginning of the school year" means successful completion of the previous year.

"Continuing good academic standing" for pupils in grades six through eight means the maintenance of passing grades in all subjects during the current year. A pupil who does not begin the year in good academic standing, but who maintains a passing grade in every subject during subsequent marking periods may request consideration to participate in extracurricular activities (excluding interscholastic sports). Participation in academically related coaching or tutoring groups may be exempt from the academic eligibility requirements at the building principal's discretion.

C. Attendance Requirements

Attendance requirements may be established for extracurricular activities by the Superintendent based upon considerations of space availability, the needed for regular attendance to preserve the continuity, integrity, or success of the activity, or based upon qualifications or rules established by sponsoring organizations or leagues. In addition, a pupil shall not participate in a performance, exhibition, practice or extracurricular event unless he/she has been present in school that day (four hours of instruction) or has been absent for an excused reason other than for sickness.

D. Competitive and Non-Competitive Programs

Unless it is specifically designated as a competitive or skill-based program or activity at the time it is approved by the Board, the emphasis in any extracurricular program established under this policy shall be on providing such the experiences and opportunities listed in Board policy in a widely accessible manner, rather than through the competitive

processes needed to produce winning teams or provide skill-based competitions and exhibitions. However, the Board considers all competitive and skill-based extracurricular activities--academic, artistic and athletic—provided under this policy to be a legitimate and an integral part of the total educational program. Both competitive and/or skilled-based activities, and non-competitive activities, shall be under the same administration and control as the rest of the school program and closely articulated with it.

All proposed competitions under this policy, either as a schedule or as a discrete event, a membership in any leagues, associations and conferences, and any agreements with other schools for a series of games or events, must be approved in advance by the Board upon the recommendation of the Superintendent.

The Board shall appoint coaches, advisors, physicians and other necessary supervisory personnel upon recommendation of the Superintendent. The Superintendent shall also ensure that training programs/regulations are developed for all extracurricular activities and that all physical facilities involved in any competition in which district schools take part shall be adequate, safe, and sanitary.

Public recognition shall be given to participants in academic or artistic competitions in the same measure as to athletic competitors. The district's affirmative action resolution and plan for equity in school and classroom practices shall apply to determining eligibility for competition, approval of each competitive activity in which pupils officially represent the district, and district expenditure to provide facilities and coaches.

Instilling habits of good sportsmanship shall be one of the primary goals of all competitive endeavors undertaken under this policy, and it is expected that all district employees involved in such programs will model good behaviors in this regard.

Advisors and coaches must accept the responsibility for encouraging young competitors to handle themselves in a sportsmanlike way and be models of self-control and dignity for players and spectators. They shall include discussions on courtesy and sportsmanlike behavior as part of pre-competition preparation. Pupil participants and spectators shall be reminded that their conduct reflects on the schools of this district and that poor sportsmanship will be disciplined. Parent(s) or legal guardian(s) and other adult spectators shall also be encouraged to act as models for young people by demonstrating self-control and dignity at all competitive events. Unsportsmanlike behavior, as exhibited through verbal abuse, rude gestures, taunts, obscenities, thrown objects, etc., shall not be tolerated in pupils, staff or any persons in attendance at district competitions. Discipline may include, but not be limited to, eviction from the competition and prevention from attending further competitions.

### Parental Consent

No minor pupil may participate in a school-sponsored activity outside the regular curriculum without a signed consent form from a parent(s) or legal guardian(s) naming the activity.

### Eligibility Responsibility

The Principal of each building is responsible for the observance of the eligibility rules contained in this policy. Eligibility determinations shall in the first instance be made by program advisors or coaches. Any appeal to the Building Principal seeking to overturn the initial determination shall be in writing and shall state specifically the error alleged to have been made and the factual basis for the appeal. The Building Principal shall set forth his/her determination in writing. Programs designated as competitive may condition participation on having special talent to perform. The choice of pupil for competitive performance may be based upon subjective judgments of talent by approved advisors or coaches, particularly where the number of otherwise eligible pupils exceeds the capacity of the program. In such cases, the judgment of the coaches shall be subject to review by the Building Principal only upon a finding that unlawful bias or an abuse of discretion exists.