

SPRINGFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Springfield, New Jersey 07081

POLICY: CONTESTS FOR STUDENTS

The Chief School Administrator shall approve participation in extracurricular contests sponsored by organizations outside the schools, as long as participation does not interfere with the instructional program. When such contests involve promotional aid, school time, or faculty assistance to pupils in essay writing, poster making, or other activities, the Chief School Administrator shall determine whether the experiences are closely enough allied to and in support of the instructional work of the school and will clearly serve to advance the educational aims of the district. The worthiness of the sponsoring agency's cause or the opportunity for individuals to win prizes shall not constitute sufficient reason for approving a contest.

Where students so agree to participate in any activity sponsored by an outside organization, it shall be the responsibility of the sponsoring organization to assume the management of the contest, providing the students with detailed information, instructions, and rules governing the activity.

At no time will pressure be applied to students to participate or refrain from participating in any contest sponsored by outside organizations.

Commercial or other exploitation of pupils through the schools shall be avoided. Consequently, the public schools shall normally not promote or sanction the participation of pupils in promotional essay contests, sales contests, art contests, or any type of publicity promotion competitions. Contests and awards shall not place undue time or financial burdens on pupils, teachers, and parents. They shall not promote commercial products or partisan viewpoints. Participation shall not be dependent on the financial status of the pupil.

Contests and awards whether local, state, or national, shall be:

1. For the benefit of the pupil
2. Open to all pupils regardless of race, creed, color, national origin, ancestry, age, or gender
3. Consistent with district objectives
4. Judged by disinterested parties
5. Properly supervised with safety precautions in place
6. Voluntary for pupils and teachers

Legal References:

N.J.S.A. 18A:11-1-1 General mandatory powers and duties

N .J.S.A. 19A:42-2 School orchestra not to compete with civilian musicians,

N.J.S.A. 18A:54-20 Powers of Board (county vocational schools)

Cross References:

1314 Fundraising by outside organizations

1320 Participation in out-of-school community activities

3280 Gifts, grants, and bequests

5126 Awards for achievement

6145 Extracurricular activities

6145.1/6145.2 Intramural competition, interscholastic competition

6145.4 Public performances and exhibitions

6153 Field trips

Adopted: August 20, 2007