

SPRINGFIELD PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Springfield, New Jersey 07081

POLICY: EXTRACURRICULAR 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:

- A. To develop useful new capabilities in pupils that can lead to extension of career opportunities;
- B. To develop pupil initiative and provide for the exercise of responsibility;
- C. To develop leadership capabilities and good organizational skills;
- D. To aid pupils in the social skills;
- E. 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 that are sponsored or approved by the board but are not 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.

The Chief School Administrator shall prepare procedures to implement an extracurricular program which shall:

- A. Assess the needs and interests of the pupils of this district;
- B. Ensure the provision of competent guidance and supervision by staff;
- C. Guard against the exploitation of pupils;

- D. Provide for a variety of experiences and a diversity of organizational models;
- E. Provide for the continuing evaluation of the extracurricular program and staff;
- F. Ensure 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, the parents/guardians and the pupil. Guidance is necessary to encourage nonparticipants, and to prevent the overenthusiastic from emphasizing activities at the cost of their academic performance.

Only persons employed and/or approved by 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 Chief School Administrator. Fund-raising activities of extracurricular groups must be approved by the Superintendent.

All pupils in good disciplinary and academic standing shall have equal access to all extracurricular activities regardless of race, creed, color, national origin, ancestry, age, marital status, affectional or sexual orientation, gender, religion, disability, or socioeconomic status.

Good Disciplinary Standing

Good disciplinary standing shall mean that a pupil is not eligible to participate while serving a detention or suspension. Pupils who serve a substantial number of detentions, suspensions or a combination of the two during one term may be found not eligible to participate the following term.

- A. When a pupil already participating in an extracurricular activity is reported for an infraction of the rules for pupil conduct, the principal shall appoint a staff committee to consider whether the pupil shall be removed from any or all extracurricular activities.
- B. If a pupil was in bad disciplinary standing the previous term, the principal shall refer the matter to a staff committee to determine whether the pupil shall be permitted to participate during the current term.

Good Academic Standing

Interscholastic athletes must meet NJSIAA regulations concerning academic eligibility in order to practice and compete with their teams.

Attendance

The district's attendance policy shall also apply.

Implementation

The Chief School Administrator shall direct development of detailed regulations to ensure equitable implementation of this policy. Particular care shall be taken to ensure that all extra-curricular programs and their operation comply with district equity requirements. Participation in academically related coaching or tutoring groups may be exempt from the eligibility requirement at the Chief School Administrator's discretion.

Legal References:

N.J.S.A. 10:5-1 et seq. Law Against Discrimination

N.J.S.A. 18A:11-3 Voluntary associations regulating conduct of student activities; membership; rules and regulations; appeals

N.J.S.A. 18A:19-14 Funds derived from pupil activities

N.J.S.A. 18A:35-20 Participation in courses in which verbalization unessential to understanding of subject matter; location of and children in bilingual programs

N.J.S.A. 18A:42-5, -6 Certain student organizations declared harmful ...

N.J.S.A. 34:13A-1 et seq. New Jersey Employer-Employee Relations Act

N.J.A.C. 6A:7-1.1 et seq. Managing for Equality and Equity in Education

N.J.A.C. 6A:8-3.2 Career education and counseling

N.J.A.C. 6A:9-5.19 Athletics personnel

N.J.A.C. 6A:16-2.2 Required health services

N.J.A.C. 6A:30-1.1 et seq. Evaluation of the Performance of School Districts

N.J.A.C. 6A:32-9.1 et seq. Athletics Procedures

N.J.A.C. 6A:32-14.1 Review of mandated programs and services

20 U.S.C.A. 4071-4074 - Equal Access Act

20 U.S.C.A. 1681 et seq. - Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972

Krupp v. Bd. of Ed. of Union County Reg. H.S. Dist. #1, 278 N.J. Super. 31 (App. Div. 1994) cert. den. 140 N.J. 277 (1994)

Good News Club v. Milford Central School, 121 U.S. 2093 (2001)

NJSIAA Constitution, Bylaws, Rules and Regulations

Manual for the Evaluation of Local School Districts

Cross References:

- 1210 Community organizations
- 1320 Participation in out of school community activities
- 1322 Contests for pupils
- 2224 Nondiscrimination/affirmative action
- 3453 School activity funds
- 5113 Absences and excuses
- 5126 Awards for achievement
- 5131 Conduct/discipline
- 5136 Fund-raising activities
- 5145.4 Equal educational opportunity
- 6010 Goals and objectives
- 6142 Subject fields
- 6142.5 Travel and exchange programs
- 6142.12 , Career education
- 6145.1/6145.2 Intramural competition; interscholastic competition

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