

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 and opportunities, some of which are more appropriately conducted outside the regular classroom program. However, the opportunity to participate in extracurricular activities is to be deemed a privilege and restricted to pupils in good disciplinary standing and good academic standing currently enrolled as full time pupils in the West Essex Regional School District.

The purpose of extracurricular activities shall be:

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

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

The Superintendent shall prepare procedures to implement an extracurricular program which shall:

1. Assess the needs and interests of the pupils of this district;
2. Ensure the provision of competent guidance and supervision by staff;
3. Guard against the exploitation of pupils;



4. Provide for a variety of experiences and a diversity of organizational models;
5. Provide for the evaluation of the extracurricular program and staff;
6. Ensure that all extracurricular activities are open to all eligible pupils and that all pupils are fully informed of all opportunities open to them; and
7. Plan and implement procedures that will permit these experiences of pupils to be known to those colleges being considered for enrollment by participants.

The primary 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 essential to encourage participation or, to discourage participation when a pupil's academic performance is or is likely to be adversely affected by this participation.

Only persons approved by the Board of Education shall be permitted to organize district pupils for purposes of instruction, coaching or for conducting club activities, games, events, musical experience or contests in these activities.

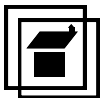
No activity shall be considered to be under the sponsorship of this Board unless it has been approved by the Board on recommendation of the Superintendent. Fund-raising activities, in accordance with law, and activities of various booster clubs dealing with extracurricular groups must be approved by the Board.

All pupils in good disciplinary and academic standing shall have equal access to all extracurricular activities regardless of race, color, creed, religion, sex, sexual orientation, national origin, ancestry, social or economic status, or non-applicable handicapping conditions.

Good Disciplinary Standing

While a pupil is serving a suspension he/she shall not be considered to be in good disciplinary standing and shall not be eligible to participate, in an extracurricular activity. Pupils who serve more than one suspension during one marking period for a serious offense may be designated as ineligible to participate the following marking period by the Principal or his/her designee.

1. When a pupil already participating in an extracurricular activity is reported for an infraction of the rules for pupil conduct, at the school or in the community e.g., use of alcohol, drugs, steroids, etc. outside of school, the Principal or his/her designee may take such action as he/she deems appropriate in those circumstances, including:



- a. Suspending the pupil from participating in extracurricular activities for such time as the Principal or his/her designee deems appropriate;
- b. Referring the pupil for a hearing before the I&RS Team shall recommend to the Principal or his/her designee such disciplinary action as it deems appropriate, and the Principal or his/her designee shall take such recommendation into consideration, but he/she shall not be bound thereby, in making a disciplinary decision.

Any such disciplinary determination of the Principal or his/her designee may be appealed to the Superintendent.

2. If a pupil was not in good disciplinary standing the previous marking period, the Principal shall refer the matter to a I&RS Team to determine whether the pupil shall be permitted to participate during the current marking

Good Academic Standing

Good academic standing at the beginning of the school year for all grades, seven through twelve, means the pupil shall have earned the minimum number of credits required pursuant to N.J.S.I.A.A. regulations:

1. For grade ten, completion in grade nine of at least 1/4 of the credits required, to receive a West Essex Regional School District state-endorsed high school diploma, with a minimum grade point average sufficient to earn enough credits to complete the high school graduation requirements in the normal course;
2. For grade eleven, completion in grade ten of the same requirements as in 1 above; and
3. For grade twelve, completion in grade eleven of the same requirements as in 2 above;

The staff member or coach having responsibility for the extracurricular activity shall monitor each pupil's academic performance. If any pupil is experiencing academic difficulty, the supervising staff member or coach shall notify his/her appropriate supervisor and refer the pupil to the I&RS Team.

A pupil who begins the year not in good academic standing, and who maintains a passing grade in every subject, may request consideration to participate in extracurricular activities at the beginning of the second semester.



1. At the beginning of the activity the advisor will review and reinforce the general rules with pupils participating in the activity.
2. Pupils participating in extracurricular activities may not be in possession, use or consume:
 - a. Alcoholic beverages;
 - b. Controlled substances that are not prescribed by a doctor;
 - c. Steroids; and
 - d. Tobacco (including smokeless).

The use of alcohol, controlled substances, steroids, and tobacco whether smoked or chewed, is a health hazard for people of all ages, but has especially harmful effects on adolescents. For this reason, pupils participating in extracurricular activities may not use alcohol, controlled substances, steroids or tobacco whether at school or in the community.

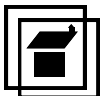
3. Pupils participating in extracurricular activities may not be in violation of criminal codes concerning alcohol, controlled substances and/or steroids.

Violations of these general rules will result in discipline to be administered by the Principal or his/her designee, which may result in suspension or removal from extracurricular activities.

Implementation

Within budgetary limitations, the Superintendent shall direct development of regulations to ensure equitable implementation of this policy. Particular care shall be taken to ensure that all extracurricular activities and their operations comply with district affirmative action requirements. Pupils who are participating in academically related coaching or tutoring groups may be exempt from the eligibility requirement at the Superintendent's discretion.

The Board expressly declines to create a limited open forum for activities initiated by pupils. Accordingly, a group of pupils who wish to meet on school premises shall apply to the Building Principal for permission to meet and must demonstrate to the Principal the relationship of their meeting to the curriculum. The Principal shall permit only those meetings that relate specifically to the curriculum. All others are to be denied.



POLICY

WEST ESSEX REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

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

Adopted: 9 February 2009
Modified: 13 July 2009

