

EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Introduction:

Participation in Board-sponsored extracurricular activities is a privilege enjoyed only by students in good academic and disciplinary standing. This privilege is earned through compliance with all applicable rules and regulations. This policy is intended to be a positive statement in support of our students as they strive to remain free of all drugs and alcohol as required by state law. This policy also encourages a student to maintain good attendance and grades, abide by all school rules, and to be a good citizen. The Board has the authority to restrict or revoke a student's privilege to participate in extracurricular activities.

The consequences set forth in this Policy and Regulation relate solely to limiting the opportunity of any student found to be in violation of this Policy or Regulation to participate in Board-sponsored extracurricular activities. Nothing set forth in this Policy or Regulation shall limit the District's ability to discipline/impose additional consequences upon a student whose conduct amounts to a violation of any Board Policy or Regulation and/or the Code of Student Conduct.

Approval of Clubs:

1. Prior to September 1, each building principal shall annually submit through the Superintendent a list of clubs to the Board. Prior to submitting the list of clubs, each principal shall review the list of clubs requested and recommend those that best meet the students' interests and needs and the District criteria. Modifications in the approved club program may be made during the school year on the concurrent recommendation of the principal and the Superintendent.
2. Each club shall have one or more Board-approved advisors.
3. Each club shall continue in operation only if its membership meetings and participation meet District requirements. If a club fails to meet the requirements, the principal will review the need for such a club and present a recommendation to the Superintendent within one (1) month.

Equal Access:

1. Subject only to the eligibility and participation requirements set forth in this Policy and Regulation, all students will have equal opportunities to participate in all Board sponsored clubs.

Definitions:

1. "Extracurricular Activities": 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 of the regular school day, be available to students who voluntarily elect to participate, and marked by student participation in the processes of starting, planning, organizing and execution, and shall ordinarily include band, clubs, dramatic or musical presentations, and intramural and interscholastic sports.
2. "Drug": Includes:
 - a. Any controlled dangerous substance, including anabolic steroids, as defined in N.J.S.A. 24:21-1, et seq. and 2C:35-2;
 - b. Any chemical or chemical compound which releases vapor or fumes causing a condition of intoxication, inebriation, excitement, stupefaction or dulling of the brain or nervous system,

including but not limited to, glue containing a solvent having the property of releasing toxic vapors or fumes, as defined by N.J.S.A. 2C:10.4; and

- c. Over-the-counter and prescription medications which are improperly used to cause intoxication, inebriation, excitement, stupefaction or dulling of the brain or nervous system.

Academic Requirements:

1. Staff shall encourage students to carry a balanced schedule of extracurricular activities that provides ample time to effectively complete class work.
2. Students who are absent from school due to illness, unexcused absence, or out-of-school suspension may not participate in extracurricular activities. Students who are serving in-school suspension may not participate in extracurricular activities even if the activities occur after the in-school suspension has been completed.

Conduct Requirements:

1. General Behavioral Expectations:

- a. Students are expected to comply with all of the Board's policies and regulations at all times, including but not limited to Board Policy and Regulation No. 5131 ("Student Conduct/Discipline"), Board Policy No. 5131.6 ("Substance Abuse"), Board Policy No. 6145.1 and 2 ("Intramural Competition/Interscholastic Competition") and the District's Code of Student Conduct.
- b. Students are required to conform to reasonable standards of acceptable behavior, to respect the rights, person and property of others, to preserve the degree of order necessary for the conduct of the educational program, and to obey those in authority.
- c. Students shall not engage in activities that constitute criminal offenses or juvenile delinquency as defined by law.

2. Use of Alcoholic Beverages and/or Drugs:

- a. **Expectations:** All student participants in Board-sponsored extracurricular activities must refrain from the use, possession or distribution of any alcoholic beverage or other drugs (unless prescribed by a physician) **both on and off school grounds**, during the season or activity in which the student wishes to participate in the extracurricular activity.

Consequences for Violations of Conduct Requirements:

1. Alleged violations of the above behavioral expectations occurring on school grounds and/or at school sponsored events will be reported by supervising staff member to the building administrator. With respect to conduct occurring away from school grounds/events, an alleged violation of the above conduct requirements shall occur if a student is formally charged and/or arrested by law enforcement for an alleged violation of the New Jersey Code of Criminal Justice, and/or applicable municipal codes or ordinance provisions.
2. Following notification of a student's alleged violation, the building administrator shall conduct a conference with the student and his/her parents, which shall include the student assistance counselor ("SAC") and other district personnel, as appropriate, at which time the student shall be provided the opportunity to address the alleged violation.
3. At the conclusion of the conference, the administrative personnel shall determine whether or not a violation of this Policy and Regulation has occurred.

4. If a violation has occurred, appropriate consequences under this Policy and Regulation shall be determined following consideration of all the facts and circumstances of a particular situation, but shall include as a minimum the following:
 - a. First Violation: The student may not participate in any extracurricular activities for seven (7) school days, and/or, at the discretion of the administrator, through and including the next scheduled competitive game and/or event.
 - b. Second Violation: The student may not participate in any extracurricular activities for ninety (90) school days.
 - c. Third Violation: The student may not participate in any extracurricular activities for one-hundred eighty (180) school days.

Aggravating factors presented by the student's coach and/or activity advisor (e.g. prior disciplinary incidents) may be considered for purposes of determining whether or not additional consequences are warranted.

Any consequences imposed under this Policy and Regulation shall run concurrently with separately imposed disciplinary consequences resulting from the student's conduct (e.g. out-of-school suspensions).

5. During any period of suspension from participation in extracurricular activities, the student shall receive educational intervention appropriate to his/her needs.
6. Upon the completion of the intervention period, there will be a required re-entry conference between the student, his/her parents/guardians, the building administrators and the SAC. In cases where the student's exclusion from participation in extracurricular activities resulted from the student's possession, purchase, sale use or abuse of drugs and/or alcohol, the student and his/her parents/guardians must submit a report from the student's treating physician certifying that substance abuse does not interfere with the student's physical or mental ability to participate in the extracurricular activity.
7. Violations of this Policy and Regulation during periods in the school year when the student is not involved in an extracurricular activity will result in a formal assessment of the problem and the completion of a treatment program as deemed necessary by the district administrator before the student will be permitted to participate in any subsequent extracurricular activity for that school year.
8. Nothing set forth in this Policy or Regulation shall limit the authority of properly appointed school advisors or athletic coaches from establishing and enforcing standards of conduct for students as a condition for student participation in an extracurricular activity, providing such standards of conduct have been approved by the appropriate Director of Activities and Athletics.
9. In all cases, the District reserves the right to deny a student participation in extracurricular activities, school functions, sports or graduation exercises as disciplinary sanctions, where such measures are designed to maintain the order and integrity of the school environment.
10. **The imposition of consequences under this Policy and Regulation is separate and distinct from any discipline that may otherwise be imposed as a result of a student's conduct.**