

**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 in the employ of a 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.

## EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES (continued)

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 board.

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, gender identity and expression, religion, disability, immigration status, English proficiency, housing status or socioeconomic status. The district shall ensure equity in educational programs including extracurricular activities and provide opportunities for students to interact positively with others on a nondiscriminatory basis.

### Good Disciplinary Standing

Good disciplinary standing shall mean that a pupil is not eligible to participate while serving a detention or suspension.

- 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.

### Attendance

The district's attendance policy shall also apply.

### Athletic Participation Fees

Students participating in school-sponsored athletics will be required to pay a participation fee. Fees collected help partially defray the operational costs (i.e., uniforms, equipment, transportation, officials, coaching, etc.) of the program. In addition, athletes are responsible for replacing lost or damaged uniforms and equipment.

Students who are eligible for the Federal Free and Reduced Lunch Program shall be exempt from paying the athletic participation fee. The Board recognizes that some families, due to financial hardship that does not meet the federal standards, may be unable to pay all or part of the fee. It is the intent of the Board that no student is denied the right to participate due to the inability to pay. The Board directs the Administration to consider requests for a reduced athletic participation fee or waiver on a case by case basis. A student whose family needs an exemption may contact the school principal who shall review the situation and make a determination. Such requests and the review process shall be confidential.

Parents and students should understand that this fee allows students to participate. It does not guarantee participation time in games, nor does it ensure specific positions on a team. Those decisions will remain with the coaches and advisors.

### 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.

EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES (continued)

Adopted: June 5, 2001

NJSBA Review/Update: December 2015 March 2017; December 2019

Readopted: April 4, 2017; January 21, 2020

Key Words

Extracurricular Activities, Cocurricular Activities, Student Activities, Pupil Activities

**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:9B-5.16 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

20 U.S.C.A. 4071-4074 - Equal Access Act20 U.S.C.A. 1681 et seq. - Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972Krupp 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)

The Comprehensive Equity Plan, New Jersey Department of Education

NJSIAA Constitution, Bylaws, Rules and Regulations

**Possible**

**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  
4143/4243 Extra pay for extra work  
\*5113 Absences and excuses  
\*5126 Awards for achievement  
\*5131 Conduct/discipline  
\*5136 Fund-raising activities  
5143 Insurance  
\*5145.4 Equal educational opportunity  
\*6010 Goals and objectives

EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES (continued)

*6142	Subject fields
6142.5	Travel and exchange programs
*6142.12	Career and technical education
*6145.1/6145.2	Intramural competition; interscholastic competition
6145.4	Public performances and exhibitions
6145.5	Student organizations
6145.7	Social events/meetings
*6146	Graduation requirements
*6153	Field trips

\*Indicates policy is included in the Critical Policy Reference Manual.