

2430 CO-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES (M)

M

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.

Extracurricular Activities help pupils to:

- A. Develop useful new capabilities in pupils that can lead to extension of career opportunities;
- B. Develop initiative and provide for the exercise of responsibility;
- C. Develop leadership capabilities and good organizational skills;
- D. Develop social skills;
- E. 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 which are sponsored or approved by the Board but are not part of the required academic program. 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 Superintendent 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 non-participants, and to prevent the over-enthusiastic from emphasizing activities at the cost of their academic performance.

Only persons in the employ of the Board of Education shall be permitted to organize district pupils during school time; during any recess in the school day or before or after school 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 Superintendent. 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, 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.

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.

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

Continuing good academic standing requires an overall average of C with no grade lower than C- in each academic subject for participation in extracurricular activities. Eligibility



shall be determined at the conclusion of marking period 1, 2 and 3 for each succeeding marking period. All pupils will be eligible for activities which begin during the first marking period, but they are subject to review at the mid-point of that marking period.

Attendance

The district's attendance policy shall also apply.

Implementation

The Superintendent shall direct development of detailed regulations to ensure equitable implementation of this policy. Particular care shall be taken to ensure that all extracurricular programs and their operation comply with district affirmative action requirements. Participation in academically related coaching or tutoring groups takes precedent over scheduled extracurricular activities. Child Study Team pupils may be exempt from eligibility requirements if participation in extracurricular activities is part of their Individual Educational Profile.

The Board will permit students who reside in this district and who are not enrolled in the public school to participate in co-curricular activities on a space-available basis. Participants will be permitted only on written application and the applicant's assurances that the student agrees to be bound by the policies, rules, and regulations of the district.

The Superintendent shall prepare procedures to implement a co-curricular program and shall assess the needs and interests of the pupils of this district and provide for the continuing evaluation of the co-curricular program.

Academic Standards

Pupils will maintain a C- (70) average in all curricular areas with no grade below a C- in each major academic area.

Any pupil with a grade or grade below C- (70) must develop an improvement plan in consultation with her/his advisor or other appropriate faculty member and parents. The improvement plan must include the following:

1. Exclusion from extracurricular activities which regularly meet after school for pupils who earn one grade of F+ or lower or two grades of D+ or lower in major academic areas. A major academic area is one which meets at least three times a week;



2. Academic monitoring for the following marking period in each curricular area where the standard of C- (70) was not met;
3. Provision for a performance review in all curricular areas at the mid-point of the marking period. Pupils not maintaining a C- in all major academic areas will be excluded from extracurricular activities for the remainder of the marking period.

Eligibility for Participation

All pupils who meet the academic standards of the Mendham Township School District shall have equal access to all extracurricular activities regardless of race, color, creed, religion, sex, national origin, ancestry, social or economic status, or non-applicable handicap.

All pupils will be eligible for activities which begin during the first marking period, but are subject to review at the mid-point of that marking period. Eligibility shall be determined at the conclusion of marking periods 1, 2, and 3 for each succeeding marking period.

A pupil will not be allowed to participate in an extracurricular activity if he/she did not attend school on that day. An exception to this rule may be made by the Principal in unusual circumstances.

Participation in academically related coaching or tutoring takes precedent over scheduled extracurricular activities.

Scheduled detentions for disciplinary purposes take precedent over meetings of extracurricular activities.

Special Education

Child Study Team pupils may be exempt from eligibility requirements if participation in specific extracurricular activities is part of their Individual Educational Plan.

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

Adopted: 17 December 2013
Revised: 25 November 2014

