

2430 CO-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES (M)

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The Board of Education believes that the goals and objectives of this district are best achieved by a diversity of learning experiences, some of which are more appropriately conducted outside the regular instructional program of the school. The purpose of such co-curricular activities shall be to develop leadership capacities and good organizational skills, to aid in the socialization of pupils, and to enable pupils to explore a wider range of individual interests than might be available in the regular curricular program.

The Board shall make school facilities, supplies, and equipment available and assign staff members for the support of a program of co-curricular activities for pupils. The Board shall maintain the program of co-curricular activities at no cost to participating pupils, except that pupils may be required to provide supplies in accordance with Board Policy No. 2520 on instructional supplies and pupils may be required to assume all or part of the costs of travel and attendance at co-curricular events and trips.

For purposes of this policy, co-curricular activities are those activities conducted on or off school premises by clubs, associations, and organizations of pupils sponsored by the Board and do not include athletic competitions and practices. Co-curricular activities must be related to the curriculum but are not offered for credit toward promotion or graduation and are ordinarily conducted wholly or partly outside the regular school day.

The Board will permit the use of school facilities by organizations of pupils during pupil activity periods. No group of pupils, regardless of the size of the group, will be denied an opportunity to meet on the basis of the religious, political, philosophical, or other content of the speech at their meeting.

No co-curricular activity shall be considered to be under the sponsorship of this Board unless it has been approved by the Superintendent.

Pupils shall be fully informed of the co-curricular activities available to them and of the eligibility standards established for participation in co-curricular activities. Co-curricular activities shall be available to all pupils who voluntarily elect to participate except that where eligibility requirements specific to an organization are necessary or desirable, the Board shall be so informed and must approve the establishment of such eligibility standards before they may be operable.

The Board will not permit the organization of a fraternity, sorority, or secret society.



Eligibility

The following defines the eligibility requirements for all pupils participating in all co-curricular activities. Pupils (grades six through twelve) who wish to participate in these pupil activities must comply with this policy and any other policies and directives issued by national, State and local governing bodies.

A. Pupil Activities - Definition

1. Pupil activities include all co-curricular activities sanctioned by the Board of Education.
2. Pupil activities also include, but are not necessarily limited to the following (others may be included as approved by the Board of Education):
 - Intramural Sports
 - Aides (Nurse, Library, Office)
 - A.V.A.
 - Clubs or organizations - i.e., Foreign Language Club, Black Culture Club, etc.
 - Debate Team
 - Jr. and National Honor Society
 - Knowledge Bowl/Academic Challenge
 - Marching Band
 - Newspaper
 - Pep Squad
 - School plays
 - Science League



- Stage Crew
- Pupil/Class Government
- Yearbook
- Youth and Government
- Model United Nations

B. General Eligibility Requirements

1. Eligibility Requirements - Grades Nine through Twelve

A pupil in grade ten, eleven, or twelve who, in the previous school year, earned twenty-five percent of the total number of credits required by the State for graduation is eligible for participation in co-curricular activities in the first semester of the following year.

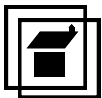
Similarly, a pupil in grade nine, ten, eleven, or twelve who, in the fall semester, earned twelve and one-half percent of the total number of credits required by the State for graduation is eligible for participation in co-curricular activities in the pupil's second semester of that year.

Any pupil who is eligible at the start of a given semester remains eligible for that entire semester regardless of his/her grades at the end of a marking period occurring at the mid-point of a given semester.

Pupils may be eligible for co-curricular reinstatement opportunities as detailed in Regulation No. 2430.

To calculate credits passed for the first semester (September-January), three grades will be used: the first marking period grade, the second marking period grade and the mid-term exam grade. The mid-term exam grade will carry one-half the weight of a marking period grade in determining the semester average for a course. Each marking period grade is weighted as forty percent of the semester average. The mid-term exam would be worth twenty percent of the semester average.

Newly placed ninth grade pupils are automatically eligible during the first semester.



2. All Other Pupil Activities (High School)

A high school pupil who becomes ineligible for participation in a pupil activity other than Interscholastic athletics by virtue of failing to meet the academic standards detailed above, shall be prohibited from further participation in that activity until eligibility is re-established. See also the "Three Suspension Rule" in the Pupil Code of Conduct referenced in Policy and Regulation No. 5600.

B. Eligibility Requirements - Grades Six through Eight

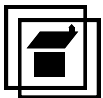
1. Incoming sixth grade pupils are eligible for pupil activities. To remain eligible, a pupil must have passed the following six courses, Reading, Writing, Science, Social Studies, Mathematics, and Physical Education each marking period. In addition, if a pupil fails either an exploratory course or an elective course in the same marking period, but not both, he/she may continue to participate. Failure in both would render the pupil ineligible for co-curricular activities in the following marking period.

2. A seventh or eighth grade pupil must have passed the same courses noted above during the preceding academic year to be eligible. To remain eligible in the seventh or eighth grade, the pupil must have passed the courses noted above at each marking period.

3. All Pupil Activities (Grades Six through Eight)

A pupil in grades six, seven or eight who becomes ineligible for participation in a pupil activity by virtue of failing to meet the academic standards detailed above, shall be prohibited from further participation in that activity until eligibility is reestablished in accordance with the above section. Note that eligibility in grades six, seven and eight is determined by marking period, not semester as is the case in the high school. Thus, a pupil ineligible for activities during the second marking period could regain eligibility for the third marking period by passing all subjects cited above, in the second marking period.

See also the "Three Suspension Rule" in the Pupil Code of Conduct referenced in Policy and Regulation No. 5600.



POLICY

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Notwithstanding these standards, a pupil who has commenced preparation for participation in a public performance of a concert, recital, drama, debate or the like may continue to participate until the pupil has completed the performance.

No pupil who has been absent for a school day may participate in a co-curricular activity scheduled for the afternoon or evening of that school day.

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

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

Adopted: 03 March 2010

