

Lower Merion School District

Policy No.: 239
Section: STUDENTS
Title: AWARDS, SCHOLARSHIPS AND CONTESTS
SPONSORED BY OUTSIDE ORGANIZATIONS
Date Adopted: 9/70
Date Last Revised: 4/21/08, 10/20/97

239 AWARDS, SCHOLARSHIPS AND CONTESTS SPONSORED BY OUTSIDE ORGANIZATIONS

Introduction

The District encourages students to participate in worthwhile activities, whether school sponsored or not. However, the District shall not encourage any activity which materially interferes with instructional efforts or limits instructional time.

In recent years there has been a significant increase in the number of local and national organizations which attempt to provide opportunities for students to achieve recognition and in turn to publicize the work of the organization. In addition, involvement by school officials in the administration of activities sponsored by many organizations is time-consuming and impinges on the instructional program.

Definitions

“Outside Organization” means any organization that does not meet the definition of a Student Organization or Approved Parent/Staff Organization.

“Student Organization” means an organization recognized by the high school as an organization of students.

“Approved Parent/Staff Organization” means any school-related organization of parents and staff recognized by the District pursuant to Policy No. 915.

“Award” means special recognition granted based on a meritorious accomplishment.

“Scholarship” means a grant of financial aid awarded to a student, as for the purpose of attending a college or other educational institution.

“Contest” means a competition for a monetary or non-monetary prize in which entrants perform separately and are rated by judges.

Guidelines

Therefore, the following guidelines concerning awards, scholarships and contests sponsored by outside organizations are provided:

A. The organization or promotion by members of the staff of awards, scholarships, contests and fundraising must be available to all otherwise qualified District students without restriction to race, creed, national origin, sexual orientation or political affiliation and the sponsoring

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organization may not have a charter or admission policy that violates federal or state law or that violates school policy except where required by law.

B. District staff shall encourage awards and contests originating within the District which provide opportunities for students to be recognized for achievements.

C. Information concerning awards, scholarships or contests sponsored by organizations not officially affiliated with the School District may be made available through regular District channels of communication in accordance with existing policy statements concerning the use of school bulletin boards and the distribution of printed materials in the schools.

D. Organizations not affiliated with the School District shall be encouraged to select student recipients for awards and/or scholarships. If the School District is required to recommend student recipients, uniform procedures shall be developed by the District for each school level. Such procedures shall be monitored by the Superintendent or designee.

E. The distribution of awards or scholarships by organizations not affiliated with the School District may not occur on school time, although such distribution may be permitted during school commencement exercises.

Cross Reference: Policy Nos. 235 *Student Rights and Responsibilities*
920 *Communications*
915 *School Related Organizations of Parents and Professional Personnel*