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District 77 Policy 510

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510 SCHOOL EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES, CO-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES, AND NON-CURRICULAR STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to inform students, employees, parents, and community members about the school district's policy related to the student extra-curricular and co-curricular activity programs and non-curricular student organizations.

II. GENERAL STATEMENT OF POLICY

Extra-curricular activities, co-curricular activities, and non-curricular student organizations provide additional opportunities for students to pursue special interests that contribute to their physical, mental and emotional well-being. No extra-curricular activities, co-curricular activities, or non-curricular student organizations shall exist which are not established following procedures outlined in this policy.

III. DEFINITIONS

- A. "Limited open forum" means that the school grants an offering to or opportunity for one or more non-curriculum related student groups to meet on school premises during noninstructional time.
- B. "Sponsorship" includes the act of promoting, leading, or participating in a meeting. The assignment of a school employee for custodial, observation, or maintenance of order and discipline purposes does not constitute sponsorship of the meeting.
- C. "Meeting" includes activities of student groups which are permitted under a limited open forum and are not directly related to the school curriculum. Distribution of literature does not constitute a meeting protected by the Equal Access Act.

- D. "Noninstructional time" means time set aside by the school before actual classroom instruction begins or after actual classroom instruction ends, including such other periods that occur during the school day when no classroom instruction takes place.
- E. "Co-curricular activities" means school sponsored and directed activities designed to provide opportunities for students to participate, on an individual or group basis, in school and public events for the improvement of skills. Co-curricular activities are not offered for school credit, cannot be counted toward graduation and have one or more of the following characteristics:
- 1) They are conducted at regular and uniform times during school hours, or at times established by school authorities;
 - 2) Although not offered for credit, they are directed or supervised by instructional staff in a learning environment similar to that found in courses offered for credit;
 - 3) They are partially funded by public monies for general instructional purposes under direction and control of the board.
- F. "Extra-curricular activities" means all direct and personal services for students for their enjoyment that are managed and operated under the guidance of an adult or staff member. Extra-curricular activities have all of the following characteristics:
- 1) They are not offered for school credit nor required for graduation;
 - 2) They are generally conducted outside school hours, or if partly during school hours, at times agreed by the participants, and approved by school authorities;
 - 3) The content of the activities is determined primarily by the student participants under the guidance of a staff member or other adult.
- G. "Non-curricular organizations" means non-curricular student groups who meet at school during non-instructional time and conducting their business for religious, political, or philosophical purposes. There is no sponsorship of these student groups by the school district.

IV. RESPONSIBILITY

- A. The school board expects all students who participate in school sponsored activities and organizations to represent the school and community in a

responsible manner. All rules pertaining to student conduct and student discipline extend to school co-curricular activities, extra-curricular activities, and non-curricular student organizations.

- B. The school board expects all spectators at school sponsored activities, including parents, employees, and other members of the public, to behave in an appropriate manner at those activities. Students and employees may be subject to discipline, and parents and other spectators may be subject to sanctions for engaging in misbehavior or inappropriate, illegal or unsportsmanlike behavior at these activities or events.
- C. It shall be the responsibility of the superintendent or designee to disseminate information needed to inform students, parents, staff and the community of the opportunities available within the school activity program and the rules of participation.
- D. Those students who participate in Minnesota State High School League (MSHSL) activities must also abide by the league rules. It shall be the responsibility of those employees who conduct MSHSL activities to familiarize students and parents with all applicable rules, penalties, and opportunities.
- E. The superintendent or designee shall be responsible for conducting periodic evaluations of school extra-curricular and co-curricular activity programs.

V. REQUIREMENT

Any student who intends to participate in interscholastic athletics, dance groups or cheerleading must have on file with the School District a record of a physical examination completed by a physician within the previous three years. A physician is defined as a medical (M.D.) or an osteopathic physician or surgeon (D.O.) or a doctor of chiropractor (D.C.). Schools may accept physicals completed by a physician's assistant or a nurse practitioner working under a doctor's protocol. In addition, a health questionnaire shall be completed annually.

VI. AREA LEARNING CENTER STUDENT PARTICIPATION

For purposes of participation in Minnesota State High School League co-curricular activities the Area Learning Center is considered an extension of East or West High School.

Area Learning Center students who choose to participate in a Minnesota State High School League co-curricular activities are bound by the rules of the League and the high school at which they participate.

The residence of the student will determine the high school at which the student can participate.

VII. PROCEDURES FOR ESTABLISHING EXTRA-CURRICULAR/ CO-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

In order for an extra-curricular activity or co-curricular activity to be considered for approval by the School Board, the following information must be submitted to the Superintendent for each request:

1. Current and anticipated level of student and community interest.
2. Current and anticipated faculty and administration support.
3. Anticipated benefit to students.
4. Relationship of the activity to the educational goals of the district.
5. Prospects for activity to be continued in future years.
6. Cost to district.
7. Costs to individual participants.
8. Ways in which this activity may detract from other activities or classes.
9. Status of activities relating to the Minnesota State High School League.
10. Availability of competition in the area.
11. Number of events and the nature of these events.
12. Length of season.
13. Equality of opportunity for girls and boys.

Upon receipt of this information, the Superintendent will prepare a recommendation to the School Board.

VIII. NON-CURRICULAR STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS

For non-curricular student organizations, the school district has created a “limited public forum” which allows non-curricular student groups to access school facilities for the purpose of conducting their business for religious, political, or philosophical purposes. Non-curricular student groups must follow the procedures outlined in School Board Policy 801 Equal Access to School Facilities.

Legal References: Minn. Stat. §123B.49 (Co-curricular and Extra-curricular Activities)

Cross References: District 77 Policy 503 (Student Attendance)
District 77 Policy 506 (Student Discipline)
District 77 Policy 538 (MSHSL Cooperative Sponsorships)

District 77 Policy 539 (Eligibility and Training Rules)
District 77 Policy 801 (Equal Access to School Facilities)
MSBA Service Manual, Chapter 6, District Education Program
Minnesota State High School League Bylaw 403.00