

## **585 ADDING EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES**

### **I. PURPOSE**

The Albany Area School Board is committed to providing K-12 students with a variety of extra-curricular activities in arts, academic and athletic areas throughout the school system within the fiscal limitations of the district's budget.

### **II. GENERAL STATEMENT OF POLICY**

It is the school district's desire to adequately staff the activities sponsored to provide a quality program and experience for students. It is the sole responsibility of the school board to make final decisions regarding the addition of any extra-curricular activities.

### **III. DEFINITIONS**

"Club" status is defined as a group of students organized to participate in a particular arts, academic or athletic activity not budgeted or financially supported by the school district. Clubs are typically organized by interested parents, staff members or through community education. The activity, however, has generated or sustained adequate interest to encourage maintaining the program on an ongoing basis. The ongoing support would involve moving the program into formal participation under the rules of the MSHSL.

The school district recognizes there are organizations or clubs that may exist which do not fall under the guidance of the MSHSL. These are activities, groups, clubs, intramural sports, or organizations that are still of interest to staff or students but do not follow a season or schedule determined by the MSHSL. Many of these organizations are local in nature but may also have regional, state or national affiliations and follow the rules and direction of some other governing agency.

### **IV. CRITERIA**

When considering the addition of any athletic activity at Albany Area Schools, the following criteria should be used by the Athletic Department and the Albany Area Schools to guide recommendations to the Activities Director and the Albany Area Schools administration.

- The sport/activity must have existed effectively as a club before a request for official AAS sanction can be made. This effectively refers to participation, coaching, equipment, scheduling, facilities scheduling, and officials.
- All sports and activities at Albany Area Schools must be able to demonstrate, through actual participants and survey results, that there are sufficient numbers of interested student athletes to justify the addition of the sport and its continuation.
- It must be demonstrated that there are adequate facilities (practice and game) available to the sport, at reasonable times, without taking away from the basic necessities of

maintenance programs or create a situation of above normal wear and tear to the facility.

- There must be a sufficient pool of qualified officials and coaches to provide for safe and efficient operations of activity.
- A competitive schedule must be possible with teams within a reasonable distance from Albany so that the student-athletes' academic preparation is not adversely affected. The schedule must minimize the disruption of the normal academic climate.
  
- Any sport that is to be added to the program should not infringe upon a similar current Albany Area Schools sport to the point that both teams are diluted in talent and competitiveness with other teams. Coaches' limits also need to be included in this consideration of the saturation point.
- Any sport, current or proposed, cannot pose an unusual safety risk for the student athletes, coaches, officials, or spectators.
- The addition or deletion of a sport should be in keeping with our climate and general location.
- A new sport or team to be added to the AAS activities program may need to be totally self-sustained financially until such time as the Albany Area School District decides to provide partial or total funding for that sport, group or team. The costs can include but are not limited to coaches' salaries, uniforms, equipment, facility costs, transportation, game-day expenses, etc. Activities department administrative overhead created by its addition will also be assumed by the new sport.
- The new activity will adhere to all Albany Area School policies and MSHSL rules. In addition, all students must remain in "good standing" according to the Albany Area School activities and student handbooks.
- The Albany Area Schools Activities Department has discretion to decide what new sport addition would best complement our existing program. Likewise, the Activities Department can determine if a program should be removed according to similar criteria. Addition or deletion of an activity from the Albany Area School Activities Department is contingent upon approval by the Albany Area Schools School Board.

## **V. GUIDELINES**

Except as outlined in the section of this policy titled "School Board Discretion," no new activity will be added in the school district unless the following conditions have been met:

- Requests for consideration of the new activity has been submitted in writing and discussed with the Activities Director, the appropriate building principal(s), or other district administrator. Such requests for activity program implementation must address the following:
  1. A detailed description of the activity being proposed for the Albany Area

School District.

2. Identify the student grade levels to be affected by the implementation of this program.
  3. What is the number of required participants necessary for the program to achieve and sustain activity status? Please provide an explanation of your rationale.
  4. A 5-year projection of the number of participants in the program and an explanation for how the projections were determined.
  5. What will be the Title IX impact of implementing this program? (if relevant)
  6. What are the financial or budget implications of this proposal?
  7. What are the staffing requirements of this proposal?
  8. What are the facility requirements of this proposal?
  9. The potential impact this program may have on other activities and the rationale for your assessment.
  10. What are the projected timelines for implementation of the new activity?
  11. Describe any history this activity may have as a program in “club” status or as a previously sponsored district activity. (You may include such things as duration, participation, etc.)
- Activity Club: Prior to the implementation of an activity governed under the rules of the MSHSL, the Albany Area School District expects a program to be established and operate under a “club” status. Any new activity under consideration will have operated under “club” status for at least two years. Any previously eliminated activity may be reinstated without “club” status by providing the information from above.
  - Other Activities: Such organizations operating within the Albany Area School District are also expected to seek and secure school board authorization in order to be classified as district extra-curricular activities. Any new organization, group or club seeking school district endorsement, resources, staffing or funding is expected to submit the appropriate application info. The school board decision to authorize any group or organization will be based on the information submitted through the guidelines above.

## **VI. IMPLEMENTATION AND MONITORING**

- A. Administrative Review: Any activity proposed for addition or reinstatement as an Albany Area School District sponsored activity should be reviewed by administration and they should be given opportunity for input. Before consideration, administrators should be provided with updated application information.
- B. Title IX: It is the intent of the Board of Education to remain in compliance with Title IX gender equity when addressing the addition of activities.
- C. School Board Discretion: The sole responsibility and ultimate authority for addition, staffing, or elimination of any extra-curricular activity rests with the Board of Education. The board retains the right to add activities which do not comply with the above criteria, such as when addressing issues of compliance with state or federal laws, when necessary

to meet Conference expectations, or when adding an innovative program that the school board wished to encourage.