

2430 CO-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

The Watchung Borough Board of Education 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.

The purpose of extra-curricular and co-curricular activities shall be:

- A. To develop useful new capabilities in students that can lead to extension of career opportunities;
- B. To develop student initiative and provide for the exercise of responsibility;
- C. To develop leadership capabilities and good organizational skills;
- D. To aid students in the social skills;
- E. To enable students to explore a wider range of individual interests than might be available in the regular program.

For purposes of this policy, "extra-curricular activities" shall be those activities that are sponsored or approved by the Board but are not offered for credit toward graduation. Such activities shall generally be conducted outside the regular school day, available to students who voluntarily elect to participate, marked by student 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 extra-curricular and co-curricular program which shall:

- A. Assess the needs and interests of the students of this district;
- B. Ensure the provision of competent guidance and supervision by staff;
- C. Guard against the exploitation of students;
- D. Provide for a variety of experiences and a diversity of organizational models;
- E. Provide for the continuing evaluation of the extra-curricular program and staff;
- F. Ensure that all extra-curricular activities are open to all eligible students and that all students are fully informed of the opportunities open to them.



The guidance goal for each student shall be a balanced program of appropriate academic studies and activities to be determined by the school, the parents or guardians and the student. Guidance is necessary to encourage nonparticipants, and to prevent the overenthusiastic from emphasizing activities at the cost of their academic performance.

Only persons in the employ of a Board of Education shall be permitted to organize district students during school time or during any recess in the school day 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 extra-curricular groups must be approved by the Board.

All students in good disciplinary and academic standing shall have equal access to all extra-curricular activities regardless of race, creed, color, national origin, nationality, ancestry, age, affectional or sexual orientation, gender, gender identity or expression, religion, social or economic condition, nonapplicable disability, refusal to submit to or make available the results of a genetic test.

Attendance

The district's attendance policy shall also apply. Students who violate Board Policy 5200 Attendance not be permitted to participate in extra-curricular or co-curricular activities until such time as they have demonstrated improved attendance on a consistent basis.

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 extra-curricular or co-curricular programs and their operation comply with district equity requirements. Participation in academically related coaching or tutoring groups may be exempt from the eligibility requirement at the Superintendent's discretion.

The Watchung Borough Board of Education authorizes organization of a student council.

The Board of Education will recognize the student council in order to:

- A. Give students practical experience in organizing, planning and effecting outcomes;
- B. Develop student leadership;
- C. Provide a learning experience in democratic decision-making;
- D. Offer another avenue toward the realization of the goals of this district.



The Board of Education shall appoint qualified members of the faculty to serve as advisors to student council activities.

To guide the certificated staff and students in organizations, the Board sets forth the following policy guide:

- A. **School Clubs and Societies:** School clubs and societies will be recognized as authorized school organizations if they are organized by the school, sponsored by school personnel, composed completely of current student body members, hold their meetings at school, have a democratic plan for the selection of members, establish aims which are education, of school interest or community interest and meet all those conditions hereinafter set forth for recognized school-sponsored organizations. A faculty advisor appointed by the Principal shall direct school sponsored organizations. School clubs and societies shall be open to all interested students;
- B. **Secret Societies:** Membership in secret fraternities, sororities, and clubs is prohibited throughout the school district. The Superintendent is authorized to develop procedures concerning disciplinary action to be taken for violation of this policy;
- C. **Non-School Clubs:** All clubs not specifically authorized and organized by the school are considered to be non-school clubs and beyond the jurisdiction and responsibility of school authorities. Such clubs may not portray themselves as being in any way affiliated with the district.

However, should these groups (non-school clubs) conduct activities on school property, at school-sponsored activities or as a carry-over into the school day or reflect on the reputation of the school, the Superintendent is authorized to develop procedures concerning disciplinary action to be taken for:

- 1. Initiation and hazing on the school grounds or at school-sponsored events;
- 2. Indulging in group functions that violate applicable laws, ordinances or Board policies.

Non-school clubs may become recognized school-sponsored clubs by conforming to the criteria for school clubs and societies stated earlier.



Contests for Pupils

The Superintendent shall approve participation in extracurricular contests sponsored by organizations outside the schools, as long as participation does not interfere with the instructional program. When such contests involve promotional aids, school time, or faculty assistance to pupils in essay writing, poster making, or other activities, the Superintendent shall determine whether the experiences are allied closely with, and in support of, the instructional work of the school and clearly will serve to advance the educational aims of the district.

The worthiness of the sponsoring agency's cause or the opportunity for individuals to win prizes shall not in themselves constitute sufficient reason for approving a contest.

Contests and awards, whether local, state, or national, shall be:

- A. For the benefit of the pupil;
- B. Open to all pupils on a non-discriminatory basis;
- C. Consistent with district objectives;
- D. Judged by disinterested parties;
- E. Properly supervised, and implement safety precautions;
- F. Voluntary for pupils and teachers.

Contests and awards shall not place undue time or financial burdens on pupils, teachers, and parents. They shall not promote commercial products or partisan viewpoints. Participation shall not be dependent on a pupil's ability to pay an entry or other fee.

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

Adopted: 19 October 2016

