

Instruction

Co-Curricular and Interscholastic Programs

The schools shall provide a broad and balanced program of co-curricular and extra-curricular activities and participation. These shall be geared to the various age, interest, and ability of students.

The participation of students in activities, with the exception of varsity athletics, shall be left to the discretion of the building Principal.

The Superintendent or designee shall establish criteria and a process for school sponsorship of student clubs.

All student-initiated groups at the secondary level shall be given equal access to meet on school premises during non-instructional times without regard to their religious, political, philosophical or other speech content.

All student groups shall have equal access to the school media, including the public address system, the school newspaper, the school bulletin board and school website to announce meetings.

The Superintendent or his/her designee may inform students that certain groups are not school sponsored.

No school shall deny equal access or a fair opportunity to meet to, or discriminate against, any group officially affiliated with the Boy Scouts of America, or with any other youth group listed as a patriotic society in Title 36 of the United States Code, for reasons based on the membership criteria or oath of allegiance to God and country.

Students participating in any form of extracurricular activity which requires they leave school grounds must submit a signed parental slip to the Principal.

All such activities sponsored by the school must be adequately supervised by school personnel. The Board recommends that parental permission slips, mandated for activities held off the school premises, also be obtained for all activities, which, in the opinion of the Principal, involve undue risk of injury to the participant.

The building Principal shall be charged with the responsibility for implementing all provisions of this policy.

Instruction

Co-Curricular and Interscholastic Programs (continued)

Legal Reference: Equal Access Act, 20 U.S.C. §4071 et. seq.

The No Child Left Behind Act, 20 USC 7905

Westside Community Board of Education v. Mergens

Policy adopted: December 8, 2005

NEW LONDON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
New London, Connecticut

Instruction

Interscholastic/Intramural Athletics

Gender Equity

This policy is enacted by the Board of Education in compliance with Title IX of Education Amendments of 1972, 20 U.S.C. Section 1681. et seq. (Title IX) which prohibits discrimination on the basis of sex in education programs and activities.

It is the intent of the Board of Education to provide equal athletic opportunities for members of both sexes. The Superintendent of Schools is directed to insure that similar athletic programs are offered to both sexes in proportion to the enrollment of the District. In the event that participation in athletics is disproportionate (i.e., boys more active in sports than girls), the Superintendent will ensure that District policies, procedures or administrative regulations do not singly or in combination, act to discourage or prevent females from athletic participation.

(cf. 0521 - Nondiscrimination)

(cf. 0521.1 - Grievance Procedure)

(cf. 4000.1 - Title IX)

(cf. 6121 - Nondiscrimination in the Instructional Program)

(cf. 6145.2 - Interscholastic/Intramural Athletics)

Legal Reference: Connecticut General Statutes

10-15 Towns to maintain schools

10-15c Discrimination in public school prohibited.

10-226a Pupils of racial minorities

10-220 Duties of boards of education, as amended by PA 97-290, An Act Enhancing Educational Choices and Opportunities Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, 20 U.S.C., 1681 et seq.

Section 504, U.S. Rehabilitation Act, 1973, 29 U.S.C. 791

Policy adopted: December 8, 2005

NEW LONDON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
New London, Connecticut

Instruction

Student Performances

Worthy and appropriate educational values often accrue from student participation in civic and community affairs both as individuals or as members of school musical, dramatic, or other organizations.

Student performances and presentations are encouraged when they contribute to the educational process and do not interfere with normal school routine. All such performances shall be subject to the approval of the building Principal who shall either personally supervise or else assign a representative to supervise such a performance or presentation. The building Principal shall notify the Superintendent of all such performances.*

High School Band

The High School Band may be asked to perform during the school year at school programs and official community affairs. The Band shall not be available for any candidate or political campaign. Appearances at other than school affairs must be approved by the Superintendent upon recommendation of the Principal.

The Superintendent shall be notified of all out of town appearances, and all out of state appearances, will be on a voluntary basis and be subject to the approval of the Superintendent.

Television and Radio Broadcasts

Television and radio broadcasts of public performances by students -- including athletic events -- to be broadcast are approved only when such telecasts and broadcasts are in the public interest.

All requests for the right to televise or broadcast a school event or series of events must be approved in advance by the Superintendent or designee.

In either instance -- that is, for television or radio broadcasts -- it is essential that school authorities reserve the right to approve all sponsors to make certain that sponsorship does not include firms supplying goods or services inappropriate to school events.

Any broadcaster granted the right to transmit or record any school event assumes the responsibility for obtaining any releases legally required from students or staff and assumes liability for all actions of their assigned personnel.

*"Student performances" for purpose of this policy, shall include, but not be limited to, scheduled band performances, scheduled band competitions and scheduled athletic events.

Instruction

Organizations/Associations

Student organizations contributing to learning shall be encouraged. Such organizations shall operate within the framework of the law, Board policy, administrative rules, and the parameters of the learning program. When such organizations are truly contribute, their establishment and operation shall be facilitated in reasonable ways by district staff and through utilization of district resources.

The Superintendent shall develop general guidelines for student organizations. Among other provisions, such guidelines will require the assignment of at least one faculty advisor to each student organization and the approval by the Superintendent. The approval; of a student organization may be withdrawn in the sole discretion of the Superintendent.

This policy applies to in-school organizations only. It is not intended to restrict the organization of students into groups which function apart from the school district.

Student Government

In order to encourage student participation in the various activities of school life and to provide opportunity for training in democratic processes, the elementary and secondary schools shall maintain and operate student councils.

Student government shall be of the students, by the students, for the students, representing all students in the school in communications with the administration and in the organizations of student activities.

The student council shall assist in improving the general welfare of all students and shall give students the opportunity to participate in the orderly workings of the democratic process.

Members of the student council shall be elected democratically. The rights and responsibilities of the council shall be clearly set forth. Faculty advisors for student council will be recommended for appointment by the administration.

The student council shall not have authority to make policies for the district or regulations for the school. Nor shall they have any disciplinary authority, except for recommending removal from the council of one of their members unless a duly authorized student court system is established and properly monitored by a faculty advisor. However, a council may make recommendations to the administration on any topic of student concern.

The administration and student council shall keep channels of communication open, not only between themselves, but between all students, the council, and the Board of Education.

Instruction

Organizations/Associations (continued)

Non-School Organizations

All organizations not specifically authorized and organized by the school are considered to be non-school organizations and beyond the jurisdiction and responsibility of school authorities.

However, should these groups 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.

Activities which are contrary to the best interests of the school and reflect on the reputation of the school are forbidden, including

1. initiation and hazing on the school grounds or at school-sponsored events.
2. indulging in group functions that violate federal, state or city laws or ordinances.

Instruction

National Honor Society

The Board of Education endorses the concept of the National Honor Society in its ability to provide special recognition to students who combine scholarship with demonstrated leadership, extensive service and good character. The Principal shall approve all activities and decisions of the chapter. The Principal shall designate the society advisor and the members of the faculty council. The administration is directed to develop appropriate regulations regarding Honor Society procedures.

Instruction

Travel and Exchange Programs

Foreign Exchange Students Attending Local Schools

The Board of Education recognizes the value of a foreign exchange for students. This unique opportunity to experience the culture of another country can be an effective and memorable learning experience for a student. Personal contact promotes global awareness and international understanding. To that end, the Board welcomes the enrollment of international exchange students and further encourages District students to take any opportunities that they may have to participate in such programs and study in another country.

With Board approval, a District school may establish a sister-school relationship with a school in another country.

In order to insure that students coming into the local school system from another country have a positive experience as a foreign exchange student, the following guidelines will be distributed to all concerned sponsoring agencies and families.

1. The Board of Education reserves the right to determine, on an individual basis, if a foreign exchange student may or may not attend public school.
2. Advance notice must be provided to the school prior to the finalization of arrangements to accept an exchange student.
3. The decision to accept a foreign exchange student into a district public school shall rest with the building Principal who will take into account such factors as space, appropriateness of placement, etc. (cf. 5111 - Admission/Placement).
4. It is understood that foreign exchange students shall not be eligible for a New London High School diploma, but may be given a certificate of attendance (or an honorary diploma) for the period of time in the District and may participate in graduation ceremonies if appropriate.
5. Agencies, groups and/or families sponsoring foreign exchange students in town should submit health and educational records to the school they would like the student to attend as early as possible. These records will be a factor in the decision regarding attendance. All international exchange students shall meet state and District immunization requirements.
6. The name and telephone number of the sponsoring agency/representative must be on file in the school before the school year begins.

Instruction

Travel and Exchange Programs

Foreign Exchange Students Attending Local Schools (continued)

7. All living arrangements for foreign exchange students are the responsibility of the sponsoring agency and families. This includes changes in living arrangements after the student has arrived and throughout his/her stay. Neither the Board of Education nor any of its employees will assume responsibility in this area.
8. Foreign exchange students are subject to the same academic and behavioral standards as all other students while enrolled in District schools.
9. The Board of Education will provide the most appropriate program available for each foreign exchange student, but should not be expected to offer English as a Second Language services.
10. No foreign exchange student will be accepted who has already completed secondary education.
11. This program is designed for foreign students who enter the country on one-year J-I visas through established exchange programs designated by the United States Information Agency and the Department of State and officially recognized by the Board, such as Youth for Understanding, American Field Service and Rotary.
12. The student or sponsoring organization will provide all dues and fees.
13. Students entering the United States on F-I visas may attend schools in the district only upon full payment of tuition before entering the United States. This tuition fee may not be waived due to federal legislation. Students attending school on an F-I visa are limited to a period of attendance not to exceed 12 months.
14. The District shall not incur any financial obligations when sending and/or receiving international exchange students. Program sponsors shall provide assurance of their responsibility for health/accident/liability insurance, the student's home placement, and the resolution of any related personal difficulties which may arise.

District Students Participating in Foreign Exchange Programs

Any district student, planning on going to a foreign country as an exchange student, shall, prior to leaving, request permission from the school Principal to have course work completed in the foreign country applied to his/her high school educational record. The Principal shall notify the Board of Education of his/her decision.

Instruction

Travel and Exchange Programs

Foreign Exchange Students Attending Local Schools (continued)

If permission is granted, the following guidelines shall apply:

If a student attends school in another country, the student must present a transcript from the school upon his or her return. The transcript will be evaluated in terms of credit to be granted by the high school Principal. The decision of the high school Principal in such cases shall be final.

Students who do not bring a transcript with them at the time they register for their courses upon their return will resume their education at the grade level/graduation requirement status at which they were on their departure.

(cf. 5145.1 – Foreign Exchange Students)

(cf. 6146 - Graduation Requirements)

Legal Reference: Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigration Responsibility Act of 1996

Connecticut General Statutes

10-27 International studies, exchange programs. Advisory committee. (amended by PA 04-153, An Act Encouraging International Students Programs)

Policy adopted: December 8, 2005

NEW LONDON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
New London, Connecticut

Instruction

School Events/Meetings

Social events shall be approved by the Principal. All social events shall be adequately chaperoned by professional staff members. Additional volunteer parental assistance and supervision shall be encouraged.

Instruction

Social Activities

All social activities pertaining to the schools may only take place after clearance from administration has been received. The following rules should serve as guidelines for the planners of such activities:

1. School activities will end at a time which is appropriate for the age group involved.
2. The Building Principal shall determine the approximate number of chaperones for each school event. The names of said chaperones must be submitted to the office at least three (3) days prior to the event. If required chaperones (parents may be included) fail to arrive by the time that the event begins, the sponsor will be given a short period of time to obtain replacement chaperones. If chaperones cannot be secured, the building administrators in charge will order the building closed.
3. At least one (1) custodian must be in attendance at each and every social event.
4. Persons not enrolled in the New London Public Schools may attend such social events as dances but only at the invitation of a New London student. No student or guest at a dance may leave the building until he or she is ready to depart for the evening. Those who leave the building will not be readmitted. Students will not be allowed to enter a dance for the first time after 10:00 p.m.
5. All students are expected to behave as mature and responsible young adults at all times. School rules are in effect during all school activities.

Instruction

Activity Funds Management

School activity funds may be expended only for purposes which may benefit the student body of the school. All rules, regulations, and procedures for the conduct, operation and maintenance of extracurricular accounts, and for the safeguarding, accounting and auditing of all monies received and derived from those accounts are to contribute to that objective.

The accounting system for managing student activity funds shall be designed to encourage the largest possible educational return to students without sacrificing the safety of funds.

(cf. 3454 - School Activity Funds)

Legal Reference: Connecticut General Statutes
 10-237 School activity funds.

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NEW LONDON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
New London, Connecticut