

## Lower Merion School District

Policy No.: 151  
Section: PROGRAMS  
Title: EXTRACURRICULAR AND CO-CURRICULAR OPPORTUNITIES  
Date Adopted: 2/28/11  
Date Last Revised: 5/20/24; 10/16/23; 6/8/15

### 151 EXTRACURRICULAR AND CO-CURRICULAR OPPORTUNITIES

#### I. Purpose

Pursuant to the District's Strategic Plan and within the confines of budgetary limitations, the Board supports extracurricular and co-curricular programming that provides a platform for students to discover and activate their strengths, talents, and passions, which, in turn, facilitates meaningful school involvement, academic engagement and leadership development.

The Board believes that extracurricular and co-curricular opportunities maximize positive student impact when they serve as an extension of the educational programming focused on the multidimensional aspects of wellness as described in Policy 254 (Student Wellness) and the equity objectives set forth in Policy 101 (Equity).

To this end, the District should endeavor to provide and selectively fund, in accordance with section III, a diverse array of opportunities for extracurricular and co-curricular engagement including, but not limited to, academic clubs, theater and musical performance, cultural experiences, and athletics, including interscholastic, clubs, and intramurals.

#### II. Definitions

**Extracurricular opportunities** shall mean those activities which are sponsored or approved by the Board of School Directors but are not explicitly connected to academic learning. Such activities shall ordinarily be:

1. Conducted wholly or partly outside the regular school day; and
2. Available to all students who voluntarily elect to participate except for those who cannot meet the eligibility requirements.

Extracurricular opportunities include the following categories of student athletics:

1. **Interscholastic sports** are those which are funded and fully staffed by the District and compete under the Rules and Regulations provided by the Pennsylvania Interscholastic Athletic Association ("PIAA"), or other applicable governing body. Interscholastic sports teams compete against other schools both within and outside of the District.

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2. **Intramural sports** are staffed and financially supported by the District and are not governed by the PIAA. Intramural sports teams compete against other teams within the school.
3. **Club sports** receive some support from the District whether financial and/or through use of facilities or equipment. Club Sports must follow the requirements for recognition as explained in the Administrative Regulation related to this Policy. Club sports teams compete against other schools both within and outside of the District and may include students from multiple District schools.

Detailed guidelines for the implementation of the student athletics program are set forth in the accompanying administrative regulation.

**Co-curricular activities** refers to activities, programs, and learning experiences that complement, in some way, what students are learning in school – i.e., experiences that are connected to or mirror the academic curriculum. Co-curricular activities frequently involve participation in a class offered for credit toward graduation from high school or for which a student is awarded a grade. Such activities shall ordinarily be:

1. Conducted partly outside and partly inside the regular school day; and
2. Available to all students who voluntarily elect to participate except for those who cannot meet the eligibility requirements.

### **III. Delegation of Responsibility**

Any co-curricular or extracurricular activity shall be under the sponsorship of the Board of School Directors only when it has been approved by the Board of School Directors on the recommendation of the Superintendent.

The Board of School Directors shall make school facilities, supplies and equipment available and assign staff members for the support of co-curricular and extracurricular activities for students in grades kindergarten through twelve. Such availability and assignment shall be consistent with other Board policies.

The Superintendent or their designee shall prepare and administer regulations to establish and monitor the District's extracurricular and co-curricular programs to ensure compliance with state and federal law, this Policy, related policies and established guidelines or administrative regulations.

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Such regulations shall include:

1. A process for periodically assessing the needs and interests of students;
2. A commitment to providing students with a variety of extracurricular and co-curricular opportunities within budgetary constraints as well as a method for determining adequate participation rates, staffing, facility needs, transportation, and other related resources;
3. A system for evaluation and, to the extent appropriate, funding of the extracurricular and co-curricular program, including criteria for starting and discontinuing activities;
4. Ensuring that all extracurricular and co-curricular activities are open to all students and that all students are fully informed of such opportunities;
5. In accordance with LMSD Policy and Administrative Regulation 114 as well as applicable laws, ensuring that students with disabilities have an equal opportunity to participate in extracurricular and co-curricular opportunities offered by the District;
6. Ensuring that students meet designated minimum academic eligibility standards; and,
7. Establishing legal qualifications for participation by resident students who do not attend District schools.

### **Cross references**

Administrative Regulation 151(A) Eligibility for Extracurricular and Co-Curricular Activities

Administrative Regulation 151(B) Student Athletics

Policy 114 *Individual Student Supports and Service*

Administrative Regulation 114-1 *Individualized Students Supports and Services: Special Education*

Administrative Regulation 114-1 *Individualized Students Supports and Services: Section 504 Compliance*

Policy & Administrative Regulation 256 *Student Fundraising Under the Auspices of the School District*

Policy & Administrative Regulation 915 *School Related Organizations*

Policy & Administrative Regulation 916 *Booster Clubs and Parent Organizations*