

RSU #63

- a. NEPN/NSBA Code:** **JJI**
- b. Title:** **Philosophy of Athletics**
- c. Author:**
- d. Replaces Policy:**
- e. Date Approved:** **01/23/2017 RSU #63**
- f. Previously Approved:** **11/27/2006**
- g. Policy Expiration:** **Review as Needed**
- h. Responsible for Review:** **Superintendent & Policy Committee**
- i. Date Reviewed:** **12/05/2016 Superintendent**
12/05/2016 Policy Committee
- j. References:**

Policies: JJIB-Sponsorship & Evaluation of Athletic Programs
JJIBA-Hiring & Evaluation of Coaches
JJIBB-Sportsmanship
JJIBC-Relations with Booster Groups

k. Narrative:

The RSU 63 Board of Directors (the Board) recognizes the value of athletics as an integral part of the educational program.

- I.** The Board believes participation in sports provides a significant learning experience and opportunity for personal growth. Learning in sports is closely related to learning in the classroom, supporting the Guiding Principles of Maine's System of Learning Results. In competition and practice, student athletes learn skills, strategies, relationships, leadership, self-discipline, and responsibility. They also learn the importance of setting goals for themselves and the team, and planning how to achieve those goals.
- II.** The Board also believes that participation in sports is related to physical and emotional health and fitness. Sports provide the incentive for developing and maintaining healthy bodies and active minds. Sports promote habits of exercise and good nutrition that can last a lifetime. Participation in sports builds self-confidence and a sense of personal responsibility for making healthy lifestyle choices. Being part of a team also creates a feeling of belonging and offers a supportive network that contributes to emotional well-being.
- III.** Based on these beliefs, it is the Board's intent district offer students the opportunity to experience developmentally sound athletic programs.
- IV.** At the middle school level, the district's athletic programs will be designed to meet the developmental needs of students through appropriate intramural and interscholastic activities. At this level, athletic programs will emphasize exploration of various sports, the strengthening of fundamental skills, teamwork, sportsmanship, and health and safety. It is the Board's intent ~~that~~ the programs promote opportunities for involvement of all team members in practices and play. The Board supports intramural activities for students

not participating in interscholastic activities or when financial, staffing, or other concerns require the school to limit the number of students participating in interscholastic activities.

- V. The Board will be responsible for approving the school sponsorship of interscholastic athletic programs. The Superintendent/designee (e.g., Athletic Director) shall be responsible for making recommendations concerning the approval of new athletic programs or the modification or elimination of existing programs. The Board may articulate, through policy, criteria to be considered in decision-making or may delegate the responsibility for developing such criteria to the Superintendent/designee.