Merchantville Board of Education 130 South Centre Street Merchantville, NJ 08109	File Code : 6142.4 Adopted : 09/27/1988 Revised : 04/25/2017 Reviewed : 07/15/2024

Physical Education and Health

The board directs that the district's curricular and extracurricular programs of physical education and activities comply with the district's affirmative action resolution and equity plan for school and classroom practices as stipulated in policies 2224, 5145.4, 6121 and 6145 in this manual. The board shall ensure that the comprehensive health and physical education curriculum addresses all elements required by the New Jersey Student Learning Standards.

In general, physical education classes shall not be divided on the basis of sex. The quality and quantity of teachers, equipment and facilities shall be equivalent among the schools and comparable from level to level, taking into account the needs of the pupils.

Members of district interscholastic athletic teams may be excused from participation in the physical activities part of their physical education program without loss of graduation credit on the request of their coach on any day on which they are designated to participate in a regularly scheduled game. The chief school administrator shall approve procedures by which coaches will inform the physical education department, on the day in question, of the specific pupils to be excused. Such pupils shall be scheduled for a study hall period instead.

The board will consider on a case-by-case basis requests from pupils or their parents/guardians in the case of minors for permission to satisfy the physical education requirement through an alternative program of athletics or physical education activities that meets the requirements of law and is consistent with the district's physical education program goals and instructional objectives.

The district physical education programs and instructional activities shall be equitable. All physical education programs shall be co-educational unless otherwise indicated by law.

Suicide Prevention

Students at all grade levels shall receive instruction in suicide prevention as part of the district health and physical education curriculum and consistent with the New Jersey Student Learning Standards for Comprehensive Health and Physical Education.

Dating Violence

For students in grades 7 through 12, physical education and health curriculum will include the topic of dating violence. “Dating violence” means a pattern of behavior where one person threatens to use, or actually uses physical, sexual, verbal, or emotional abuse to control a dating partner.

Dating violence education shall include information on the definition of dating violence, recognizing dating violence warning signs, and the characteristics of healthy relationships.

Upon written request to the school principal, a parent/legal guardian of a student less than 18 years of age shall be permitted within a reasonable period of time after the request is made, to examine the dating violence education program instruction materials developed by the school district.

The purpose of the dating violence information is to help prevent dating situations from becoming unsafe and to help educate students on constructive ways to resolve conflicts in personal relationship.

To be consistent with P.L. 2011, c. 64, school policy, procedures and curriculum shall include the following information:

A. Dating violence will not be tolerated;

B. Dating violence reporting procedures;

C. Guidelines for responding to at-school incidents of dating violence;

D. Discipline procedures specific to at-school incidents of dating violence;

E. Warning signs of dating violence; and

F. Information on safe and appropriate school, family, peer, and community resources available to address dating violence shall also be included within the curriculum.

Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) and Automated External Defibrillator (AED)

The board of education shall provide instruction in cardiopulmonary resuscitation and the use of an automated external defibrillator to each student during high school (in grades 9, 10, 11 or 12). The instruction shall be provided to each student prior to graduation as part of the district's implementation of the New Jersey Student Learning Standards in Comprehensive Health and Physical Education. The board may select a no-cost, non-certification instructional program to meet this requirement.

The instruction provided shall:

A. Be modeled from an instructional program established by the American Heart Association, American Red Cross, or other nationally-recognized association with expertise in instruction in cardiopulmonary resuscitation and the use of an automated external defibrillator; and

B. Include a hands-on learning component for each participating student.

Key Words

Nondiscrimination, Physical Education, Health, Affirmative Action

Legal References

N.J.S.A. 18A 6-111: Findings, declarations relative to instruction in suicide prevention in public schools.
N.J.S.A. 18A 6-113: Provision for instruction in suicide prevention in school curriculum.
N.J.S.A. 18A 35-4.19 AIDS Prevention Act of 1999
N.J.S.A. 18A 35-4.20: Sex education programs to stress abstinence
N.J.S.A. 18A 35-4.21: Abstinence from sexual activity stressed in curriculum
N.J.S.A. 18A 35-4.22: Avoidance of IV drug use stressed
N.J.S.A. 18A 35-4.23a Dating violence education incorporated into health education curriculum
N.J.S.A. 18A 35-4.28: Instruction in cardiopulmonary resuscitation, use of automated external defibrillator for certain student
N.J.S.A. 18A 35-5 Maintenance of physical training courses; features
N.J.S.A. 18A 37-33 Findings, declarations relative to dating violence policy and education
N.J.A.C. 6A 7-1.7 Equality in school and classroom practices
N.J.A.C. 6A 8-3.1 Curriculum and instruction
N.J.A.C. 6A 8-5.1 Graduation requirements
N.J.A.C. 6A 9B-5.16 Athletics Personnel
N.J.A.C. 6A 9B-10.3 Health and physical education
N.J.A.C. 6A 16-2.1 Health services policy and procedural requirements
N.J.A.C. 6A 16-2.2 Required health services
N.J.A.C. 6A 32-9.1 General requirements
20 U.S.C. 1681 et seq Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972

Cross References

- 2224 - Sample Policy: Nondiscrimination, Affirmative Action
- 5145. 4 - Sample Policy: Equal Educational Opportunity
- 6121 - Sample Policy: Nondiscrimination, Affirmative Action
- 6140 - Sample Policy: Curriculum Adoption
- 6141 - Sample Policy: Curriculum Design, Development
- 6142 - Sample Policy: Subject Fields
- 6145.1 - Sample Policy: Intramural Competition Interscholastic Competition
- 6146 - Sample Policy: Graduation Requirements

*Indicates policy is included in the Critical Policy Reference Manual.

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