Book	Policy Manual
Section	100 Programs
Title	Interscholastic Athletics/Extra and Co-Curricular Activities
Code	119
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Purpose

The Board believes that the goals and objectives of the School District are best achieved by a diversity of learning experiences, some of which are more appropriately conducted outside the regular classroom curricular program of the school.[1]

The Board recognizes the value of a program of interscholastic athletics as an integral part of the total school experience to all students of the School District and to the community.

All learning experiences offered by the schools - athletic, curricular, extra and co-curricular - should be planned and integrated toward the attainment of the School District's objectives.

Definitions

For purposes of this policy, the program of **interscholastic athletics** shall include all activities relating to competitive sport contests, games; or events or sport exhibitions involving individual students or teams of students of the School District when such events occur between separate schools within the School District, or with any schools outside the School District.

For purposes of this policy, **co-curricular activities** include activities related to curricular areas and/or result in the awarding of evaluative grades and credits. Examples of co-curricular activities include, but are not limited to, such things as band, chorus, speech and debate team, etc.

For purposes of this policy, **extracurricular** activities include activities that are not tied to curricular areas and do not result in the awarding of grades and credits. Examples of extracurricular activities include, but are not limited to, sports, clubs, plays, etc.

With regard to eligibility determinations governed by this policy, the term **report period** shall mean:

1. The period of time between the start of a nine-week grading period and end of that nine-week grading period.

Authority

Interscholastic Athletics

It shall be the policy of the Board to offer opportunities for participation in interschool athletic programs to all students on an equal basis and in accordance with federal laws, state laws and regulations.[2][4]

The Board shall annually approve a program of interscholastic athletics, and shall require that all facilities utilized in that program, whether or not the property of the Board, properly safeguard both players and spectators and are kept free from hazardous conditions.[1]

The Board shall determine the standards of eligibility to be met by all students participating in interscholastic programs. Such standards shall require that each student be covered by the maximum student accident insurance available, or its equivalent, be in good physical condition, be free of injury, and shall have fully recovered from illness as determined by the District's medical personnel before participating in any interscholastic athletic event.

The Board shall permit resident students that attend private schools, charter schools, cyber schools, and home schooled students residing in the District, to participate in interscholastic athletics at the school within their home area of assignment, according to applicable law.[1][3][5][8]

Extra and Co-Curricular Activities

The Board may make school facilities, supplies, and equipment available and assign staff members for the support of a program of extra-curricular and co-curricular activities. Such availability and assignment shall be in accordance with the Equal Access Act.[1]

Any co-curricular activity shall be under the sponsorship of this Board when it has been approved by the Board on recommendation of the Superintendent.

Equal Access Act

The District shall provide all students the opportunity for one or more noncurricular related student groups to meet on the school premises during noninstructional time for the purpose of conducting a meeting within the limited open forum on the basis of the religious, political, philosophical, or other content of the speech at such meetings. Such meetings must be voluntary, student-initiated, and not sponsored in any way by the school, its agents, or employees. Noninstructional time is the time set aside by the school before actual classroom instruction begins or after actual classroom instruction ends.[6]

The meetings cannot materially and substantially interfere with the orderly conduct of the educational activities in the school.

The Superintendent or designee shall establish the length of sessions, number per week, and other such limitations as felt reasonably necessary.

The District retains the authority to maintain order and discipline on school premises to protect the well-being of students and employees and to ensure that the attendance of students at such meetings is on a voluntary basis.

Eligibility Guidelines

All students enrolled in grades kindergarten through twelve must meet certain academic standards to be eligible for participation in any athletic, extra-curricular or co-curricular activity. The Board directs that the academic standards set forth below shall apply in grades kindergarten through twelve. Participation in interscholastic athletics for enrolled students ages 18-21 may be subject to additional eligibility requirements. [7]

1. Students with a 0--1.99 grade point average, at the end of the previous report period, shall be considered ineligible under this policy; and shall be required to wait for the issuance of the next weekly grade check, interim report card, or end of quarter report card (whichever comes first) to determine if said student has satisfied the grade point average to participate in the activity.

2. When determining eligibility for programs beginning at or before the start of the school year, eligibility will be based on whether the student has passed four ("4") full credit subjects, and achieved a cumulative 2.0 GPA, during the previous school year.

3. Single report period grades are to be used as last previous grades only in determining academic eligibility for activities that are in progress once the school year begins.

4. If a student is found to be ineligible under this policy or under other applicable requirements due to having grades below those set forth above, or otherwise failing to meet other applicable eligibility requirements [7], the student shall not be permitted to participate in any interscholastic athletics or extra and co-curricular activities until they meet the eligibility requirements.

5. The academic eligibility requirements set forth in this policy do not apply to co-curricular activities that provide academic credit.

Legal

1. 24 P.S. 511

2. 22 PA Code 4.27
3. 24 P.S. 1327.1
4. 34 CFR 106.41
5. 24 P.S. 1719-A
6. 20 U.S.C. 4071 et seq

7. For example, Pennsylvania Interscholastic Athletic Association requirements at www.piaa.org

8.PIAA Bylaws; Article 3; Section 6