PRIVATE SCHOOL STUDENTS — ACCESS TO PUBLIC SCHOOL COCURRICULAR, INTERSCHOLASTIC AND EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

The M.S.A.D. No. 75 Board of Directors recognizes that Maine law sets standards for access to public school cocurricular, interscholastic and extracurricular activities by students enrolled in equivalent instruction programs in private schools.

For the purpose of this policy, "student enrolled in equivalent instruction program" means a student otherwise eligible to attend school in that school district, including a student who resides in the unorganized territory, when the student is enrolled in an equivalent instruction program in a private school that is recognized as an equivalent instruction alternative under 20-A MRSA § 5001-A(3)(1)(b).

I. PARTICIPATION IN COCURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

"Cocurricular activities," for the purpose of this policy, are activities that are sponsored by the school, are directly related to the curriculum and support achievement of the learning standards established by law, Board policy and or administrative action. Examples of such activities include the math club, science fairs and foreign language clubs.

A student enrolled in an equivalent instruction program as defined in this policy is eligible to participate in cocurricular activities sponsored by M.S.A.D. No. 75 provided that:

A. The student or his/her parent/guardian applies in writing to and receives written approval from the school principal/designee.
B. The student currently meets, and agrees to meet in the future, established behavioral, disciplinary, attendance and other rules applicable to all students.
C. The private school the student attends does not provide the same cocurricular activity.

The principal/designee may withhold approval only if the school does not have the capacity to provide the student with the opportunity to participate in the cocurricular activity.

If approval is withheld, the principal/designee will provide a written explanation to the student or student's parent/guardian stating the reason for the decision to withhold approval.

II. PARTICIPATION IN EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

"Extracurricular activities," for the purpose of this policy, are school-sponsored activities for which participants are selected by staff supervising the activities, including those teams, both athletic and academic, that participate in interscholastic competition.

A student enrolled in an equivalent instruction program as defined in this policy is eligible to try out for extracurricular and interscholastic activities sponsored by M.S.A.D. No. 75 provided that the following requirements are met/satisfied:

A. The student applies for and receives written approval from the principal/designee.

B. The student agrees to abide by equivalent rules of participation as are applicable to regularly enrolled students participating in the activity and provides evidence that the rules of participation are being met.

C. The student complies with the same physical examination, immunization, insurance, age, and semester eligibility requirements as regularly enrolled students participating in the activity. All required documentation must be made available upon request by the district.

D. The student meets equivalent academic standards as those established for regularly enrolled students participating in the activity and provides evidence that the academic standards are being met.

E. The student abides by the same transportation policy as regularly enrolled students participating in the activity.

F. The private school the student attends does not provide the same extracurricular or interscholastic activity

The principal/designee will be responsible for approving or withholding approval of applications to try out for an extracurricular activity. The principal/designee may withhold approval only if the school does not have the capacity to provide the student with the opportunity to participate in the cocurricular activity.

If approval is withheld, the principal/designee will provide a written explanation to the student or the student's parent/guardian stating the reason for the decision.

The criteria for selection of participants shall be determined by the staff members (coaches, advisors and their supervisors) responsible for the activities. Tryouts are by nature competitive. Eligibility to try out does not guarantee participation.

Decisions resulting in non-selection of individual students shall not be subject to appeal or reconsideration unless they are in violation of law or Board policy.

VERIFICATION OF ELIGIBILITY

To permit verification that the student has met eligibility requirements under this policy, the student's parent (or the student, if 18 years old) must authorize the private school to provide to the principal all information necessary to determine whether the student meets the requirements.

DELEGATION OF AUTHORITY

In order to maintain an efficient and orderly method for processing applications for participation, the Board authorizes the Superintendent/designee to develop procedures, as appropriate, for the principal/designee's use in determining whether students have met eligibility requirements and for granting or withholding approval of participation.

M.S.A.D. No. 75 has no obligation to notify or provide information concerning eligibility for participation in school-sponsored cocurricular, interscholastic or extracurricular activities to students enrolled in equivalent instruction in private schools.

APPEALS

Except as otherwise provided in this policy, appeals from administration and application of the Board policy are heard by the Board, whose decision is final and binding. Appeals that question the Board's policy compliance with legal requirements must be made to the Commissioner, whose decision is final and binding.

LEGAL REFERENCE: 20-A MRSA §§ 2901, 5001-A, 5021-A(3)

CROSS REFERENCE: KL – Complaints

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