

Policy

EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

The Passaic Board of Education believes that the educational goals and objectives of the district are best achieved by a diversity of learning experiences. The Board of Education is committed to providing students with a rich and diversified blend of extracurricular activities. The purpose of extracurricular activities shall be:

- A. To develop useful new capabilities in students that can lead to extension of career opportunities;
- B. To develop student initiative and provide for the exercise of responsibility;
- C. To develop leadership capabilities and good organizational skills;
- D. To aid students in the social skills; and
- E. To enable students to explore a wider range of individual interests than might be available in the regular program.

For purposes of this policy, “extracurricular activities” shall be those activities that are sponsored or approved by the Board but are not offered for credit toward graduation, unless certain extracurricular activities are included in students’ approved programs toward graduation as identified in board policy 6146 Graduation Requirements.

Extracurricular activities shall generally be conducted outside the regular school day, available to students who voluntarily elect to participate, marked by student participation in the processes of initiation, planning, organizing, and execution and shall ordinarily include band, clubs, dramatic or musical presentations, and intramural and interscholastic sports.

Equal access to school facilities shall be granted to all activities that meet this definition.

The superintendent shall prepare procedures to implement an extracurricular program, which shall:

- A. Assess the needs and interests of the students of this district;
- B. Ensure the provision of competent guidance and supervision by staff;
- C. Guard against the exploitation of students;
- D. Provide for a variety of experiences and a diversity of organizational models;
- E. Provide for the continuing evaluation of the extracurricular program and staff; and

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F. Ensure that all extracurricular activities are open to all eligible students and that all students are fully informed of the opportunities open to them.

The guidance goal for each student shall be a balanced program of appropriate academic studies and activities to be determined by the school, the parents/guardians and the student. Guidance is necessary to encourage nonparticipants, and to prevent the overenthusiastic from emphasizing activities at the cost of their academic performance.

Only persons in the employ of a board of education shall be permitted to organize district students during school time or during any recess in the school day for purposes of instruction or coaching or for conducting games, events, or contests in physical education or athletics.

No activity shall be considered to be under the sponsorship of this board unless it has been approved by the board on recommendation of the superintendent. Fundraising activities of extracurricular groups must be approved by the board and conducted in accordance with the Fundraising Activities board policy 5136.

All parent/guardian support groups must be approved/recognized by the Board and operate in accordance with board policy.

All non-parent/guardian volunteers must pass the appropriate background checks and be approved by the board.

All students in good disciplinary and academic standing shall have equal access to all extracurricular activities regardless of race, creed, color, national origin, ancestry, age, marital status, affectional or sexual orientation, gender, gender identity and expression, religion, disability, immigration status, English proficiency, housing status or socioeconomic status. The district shall ensure equity in educational programs including extracurricular activities and provide opportunities for students to interact positively with others on a nondiscriminatory basis.

No student organization shall be permitted to hold meetings or be recognized as a part of the school activity program unless it maintains staff member sponsorship. All student organizations must be recognized by the Board of Education prior to their permission to meet and become an active part of the student activity program.

The Board expressly declines to create a limited open forum for activities initiated by students. Accordingly, a group of students who wish to meet on school premises shall apply to the building Principal for permission to meet and must demonstrate to the Principal the relationship of their meeting to the curriculum. The Principal shall permit only those meetings that relate specifically to the curriculum.

Students must be picked up at the end of their activity, unless the parents provide permission in writing to walk home.

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Good Disciplinary Standing

Good disciplinary standing shall be defined by the Code of Student Conduct board policy 5131.

- A. When a student already participating in an extracurricular activity is reported for an infraction of the rules for student conduct, the principal shall appoint a staff committee to consider whether the student shall be removed from any or all extracurricular activities.
- B. If a student was in bad disciplinary standing the previous term, the principal shall refer the matter to a staff committee to determine whether the student shall be permitted to participate during the current term.

Good Academic Standing

Students will be allowed to participate in any and all extracurricular activities for their age or grade level providing the student is in compliance with the New Jersey State Interscholastic Athletic Association (NJSIAA) credit requirement or has not had extracurricular privileges revoked by the school administrator. If privileges have been revoked or the student is not in compliance with the NJSIAA credit requirement, a notification will be sent home to the parent/guardian stating why the privileges were revoked. Students wishing to participate in interscholastic athletic activities are also subject to the requirements of the Passaic Board of Education's admission policy.

Attendance

The district's attendance policy shall also apply. Students not meeting the district attendance requirements may not be allowed to participate in extracurricular activities.

Scheduling School Activities

After school activities, practices, contests, and events shall be scheduled at times that are reasonable and convenient for the majority of the participants. If activities for students would suffer or be jeopardized as a result of anticipated absences for religious observances, the function may be rescheduled as necessary. No student or staff member shall be penalized in any fashion for non-attendance by reason of personal religious beliefs.

Out of District Student Participation

High school students who are Passaic residents and who attend public charter schools, or public vocational/technical schools may participate in interscholastic sports as permitted by and in accordance with the rules and procedures of the NJSIAA.

Additionally, middle school students who are Passaic residents and who attend public charter schools may participate in interscholastic sports in accordance with the rules and procedures of the Passaic Public Schools Athletic Department for middle school students. The District will not provide transportation between the location where these students are taught and the Passaic Public Schools. These students must also comply with all Board of Education and school policies,

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regulations, and procedures that govern Interscholastic Sports.

Implementation

The superintendent shall direct development of detailed regulations to ensure equitable implementation of this policy. Particular care shall be taken to ensure that all extracurricular programs and their operation comply with district equity requirements.

Extracurricular activities shall be construed as an integral part of the teachers' employment contract and no claim for extra compensation for such work will be recognized unless specifically provided in the currently valid negotiated agreement or approved by the Board of Education.

The Board shall maintain the program of extracurricular programs at no cost to participating students except that the Board's responsibility for the provision of supplies shall carry the same exemptions as listed in the Board's policy on regular school supplies, and students may be required to assume all or part of the costs of travel and attendance at extracurricular events and trips. Any costs borne by the students must be reviewed and approved by the Superintendent or his/her designee prior to the event or trip.

First Reading: August 5, 2015
Second Reading: August 31, 2015
Adopted: August 31, 2015

First Reading: July 29, 2019
Second Reading: August 28, 2019
Readopted: August 28, 2019

Key Words

Extracurricular Activities, Cocurricular Activities, Student Activities, Student Activities

<u>Legal References:</u>	<u>N.J.S.A.</u> 10:5-1 et seq.	Law Against Discrimination
	<u>N.J.S.A.</u> 18A:11-3	Voluntary associations regulating conduct of student activities; membership; rules and regulations; appeals
	<u>N.J.S.A.</u> 18A:19-14	Funds derived from student activities
	<u>N.J.S.A.</u> 18A:35-20	Participation in courses in which verbalization unessential to understanding of subject matter; location of and children in bilingual programs
	<u>N.J.S.A.</u> 18A:42-5, -6	Certain student organizations declared harmful ...
	<u>N.J.S.A.</u> 34:13A-1 et seq.	<u>New Jersey Employer-Employee Relations Act</u>
	<u>N.J.A.C.</u> 6A:7-1.1 et seq.	Managing for Equality and Equity in Education
	<u>N.J.A.C.</u> 6A:8-3.2	Career education and counseling
	<u>N.J.A.C.</u> 6A:9B-5.16	Athletics personnel
	<u>N.J.A.C.</u> 6A:16-2.2	Required health services

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N.J.A.C. 6A:30-1.1 et seq. Evaluation of the Performance of School Districts
N.J.A.C. 6A:32-9.1 et seq. Athletics Procedures

20 U.S.C.A. 4071-4074 - Equal Access Act

20 U.S.C.A. 1681 et seq. - Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972

Krupp v. Bd. of Ed. of Union County Reg. H.S. Dist. #1, 278 N.J. Super. 31 (App. Div.1994) cert. den. 140 N.J. 277 (1994)

Good News Club v. Milford Central School, 121 U.S. 2093 (2001)

The Comprehensive Equity Plan, New Jersey Department of Education

NJSIAA Constitution, Bylaws, Rules and Regulations

Possible

<u>Cross References:</u>	1210	Community organizations
	1320	Participation in out of school community activities
	*1322	Contests for students
	*2224	Nondiscrimination/affirmative action
	*3453	School activity funds
	4143/4243	Extra pay for extra work
	*5113	Absences and excuses
	*5126	Awards for achievement
	*5131	Conduct/discipline
	*5136	Fund-raising activities
	5143	Insurance
	*5145.4	Equal educational opportunity
	*6010	Goals and objectives
	*6142	Subject fields
	6142.5	Travel and exchange programs
	*6142.12	Career and technical education
	*6145.1/6145.2	Intramural competition; interscholastic competition
	6145.4	Public performances and exhibitions
	6145.5	Student organizations
	6145.7	Social events/meetings
	*6146	Graduation requirements
	*6153	Field trips

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