

POLICY

STAFFORD TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION

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2430 CO-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

The Board believes that the educational goals and objectives of the district are best achieved by a diversity of learning experiences, some of which are more appropriately conducted outside the regular classroom program.

The purpose of extracurricular activities shall be:

1. To develop useful new capabilities in pupils that can lead to extension of career opportunities;
2. To develop pupil initiative and provide for the exercise of responsibility;
3. To develop leadership capabilities and good organizational skills;
4. To aid pupils in the social skills; and
5. To enable pupils 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 which are sponsored or approved by the Board but are not offered for credit toward graduation. Such activities shall generally be conducted outside the regular school day, available to pupils who voluntarily elect to participate, marked by pupil 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.

The Board expressly declines to create a limited open forum for activities initiated by pupils. Accordingly, a group of pupils 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.

The Superintendent shall prepare procedures to implement an extracurricular program which shall:

1. Assess the needs and interests of the pupils of this district;
2. Ensure the provision of competent guidance and supervision by staff;
3. Guard against the exploitation of pupils;



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4. Provide for a variety of experiences and a diversity of organizational models;
5. Provide for the continuing evaluation of the extracurricular program and staff; and
6. Ensure that all extracurricular activities are open to all eligible pupils and that all pupils are fully informed of the opportunities open to them.

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

Only persons in the employ of the Board of Education shall be permitted to organize district pupils 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. Fund-raising activities of extracurricular groups must be approved by the Board.

All pupils in good disciplinary and academic standing shall have equal access to all extracurricular activities regardless of race, color, creed, religion, sex, national origin, ancestry, social or economic status, ethnicity, affectional or sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, atypical heredity cellular or blood trait, genetic information, mental or physical disability, perceived disability or AIDS and HIV status.

Good Disciplinary Standing

Good disciplinary standing shall mean that a pupil is not eligible to participate while serving a detention or suspension. Pupils who serve more than two suspensions during one term may be found not eligible to participate the following term.

1. When a pupil already participating in an extracurricular activity is reported for an infraction of the rules for pupil conduct, the Principal shall appoint a staff committee to consider whether the pupil shall be removed from any or all extracurricular activities.



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2. If a pupil was in bad disciplinary standing the previous term, the Principal shall refer the matter to a staff committee to determine whether the pupil shall be permitted to participate during the current term.

Good Academic Standing

Good academic standing at the beginning of the school year for all grades, means successful completion of the previous year's requirements, with no failures.

Pupils not in good academic standing at the beginning of the school year would be considered under probation and shall have their progress monitored by coach or advisor.

Continuing good academic standing requires maintenance of passing grades in all subjects during the current year.

Attendance

The district's attendance policy shall also apply (i.e. No pupil who has been absent for a school day may participate in a co-curricular activity scheduled for the afternoon or evening of that school day).

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 extra-curricular programs and their operation comply with district affirmative action requirements. Participation in academically related coaching or tutoring groups may be exempt from the eligibility requirement at the Superintendent's discretion.

39 U.S.C.A. 1701 et seq.
N.J.S.A. 18A:11-3; 18A:42-2; 18A:42-5

Adopted: 22 July 2004
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