THE NEWARK PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Newark, New Jersey
POLICY

FILE CODE: 6145

EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

The Newark Public Schools 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:

A. To develop useful new capabilities in pupils that can lead to extension of career opportunities;

B. To develop pupil initiative and provide for the exercise of responsibility;

C. To develop leadership capabilities and good organizational skills;

D. To aid pupils in the social skills; and

E. 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 that are sponsored or approved by the State District Superintendent 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.

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

The District's extracurricular program shall:

A. Assess the needs and interests of the pupils of this District;

B. Ensure the provision of competent guidance and supervision by staff;

C. Guard against the exploitation of pupils;

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

EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES (Continued)

F. 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 Newark Public Schools 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 the Newark Public Schools unless it has been approved by the State District Superintendent. Fundraising activities of extracurricular groups must be approved by the State District Superintendent or designee.

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, or nonapplicable disability.

Eligibility

Eligibility for participation in any Newark Public School extracurricular and interscholastic athletic program follows Article V of the Constitution and Rules and Regulations of the New Jersey Interscholastic Athletic Association.

In order to participate the following general rules of eligibility apply:

a) Any student in grades 10, 11, and 12 must have earned 30 credits by the end of the previous school year in order to be eligible for Fall or Winter sports or Extracurricular club/team in the following school year.

b) To be eligible for Spring sports and maintain eligibility for continued Extracurricular participation, all students in grades 9, 10, 11, and 12 must have earned 15 credits by the end of the first semester.

c) Any student in grades 9, 10, 11, and 12 must have earned a minimum previous semester Grade Point Average (GPA) of 2.0.

d) As there is no credit rule in eighth grade, incoming ninth graders who have at least a 2.0 GPA from their 8th grade final report card are eligible for Fall and Winter sports and Extracurricular participation; however, any incoming freshman who is sixteen before September 1 of a school year may not participate in Freshman sports. He/she can participate on JV/Varsity teams only.

e) All students have eight consecutive semesters for participation, beginning with the first enrollment in ninth grade.

f) Students who are nineteen before September 1 of a school year are ineligible for athletic participation.

EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES (Continued)

g) All classified students, as defined by the New Jersey State Department of Education, shall comply with all athletic eligibility rules and regulations of the NJSIAA, with the exception of the credit rule. In addition, a classified student must provide written consent from his/her parent/guardian. Further, the student's individualized education program must indicate that the student can participate in interscholastic athletics.

h) Academically ineligible students who do not meet the GPA requirement of 2.0 from the previous semester in grade 9-12 and whose previous semester GPA is at or above 1.5 may use a one-time probationary period during the course of the student's academic history which would make the student eligible until the next grading period.

i) A student on academic probation or a student whose GPA is 2.5 or below is mandated to participate in and receive academic support such as mandatory tutorial programs, assigned mentors, and credit/grade recovery.

j) If a student on academic probation has two (or more) poor performance reviews for one week and or has one (or more) unexcused absence(s), he/she will be suspended immediately for one week (7 full days beginning on the day of the suspension) from any athletic competition. The student will be expected to report to practice for additional duties during that practice. He/she may not dress, but must attend scheduled competitions. At the end of the week's suspension, he/she must have documented signs of improvement from teacher(s) and their parent(s)/guardian(s) in order to be eligible for the next week's competition(s).

k) If a student on academic probation fails to improve his/her grades/GPA or his/her grades/GPA lowers over the cycle, the student will be removed from participation by the Principal, Athletic Director, and Head Coach for the remainder of the athletic season. Once removed, in order for the student to be eligible for athletic participation again, he/she must improve their grades at or above the 2.0 GPA requirement during that semester.

l) Students with a GPA above 2.5 are to participate in study hall sessions while in season.

The principal is responsible for assuring that all participants in his/her school are eligible for athletic competition.

Any questions or clarifications regarding matters of eligibility shall be directed to the Director of Athletics and the student activities designee at the high school the student attends or for which the student will be participating.

Implementation

This policy shall be implemented on an equitable basis. 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 State District Superintendent's discretion.

Date approved by State District Superintendent: June 16, 2009

EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES (Continued)

Legal References:

N.J.S.A. 10:5-1 et seq.	Law Against Discrimination
N.J.S.A. 18A:11-3	Voluntary associations regulating conduct of student activities; membership; rules and regulations; appeals
N.J.S.A. 18A:19-14	Funds derived from pupil activities
N.J.S.A. 18A:35-20	Participation in courses in which verbalization unessential to understanding of subject matter; location of and children in bilingual programs
N.J.S.A. 18A:42-5, -6	Certain student organizations declared harmful …
N.J.S.A. 34:13A-1 et seq.	New Jersey Employer-Employee Relations Act
N.J.A.C. 6:3-8.1 et seq.	Athletics Procedures
N.J.A.C. 6:8-4.1	Review of mandated programs and services
N.J.A.C. 6:11-3.24	Athletics personnel
N.J.A.C. 6A:7-1.1 et seq.	Managing for Equality and Equity in Education
N.J.A.C. 6A:8-3.2	Career awareness and exploration
N.J.A.C. 6A:16-2.2	Required student medical examinations
N.J.A.C. 6A:30-1.1 et seq.	Evaluation of the Performance of School Districts

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)

NJSIAA Constitution, Bylaws, Rules and Regulations

Manual for the Evaluation of Local School Districts (September 2002)

Cross References:

1322	Contests for pupils
2224	Nondiscrimination/affirmative action
3453	School activity funds
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 education
6145.1/6145.2	Intramural competition; interscholastic competition
6146	Graduation requirements
6153	Field trips