

EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

The West Morris Regional High School District Board of Education 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 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;
- 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. Such 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 chief school administrator 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;
- 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

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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 chief school administrator. Fund-raising activities of extracurricular groups must 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, family status, affectional or sexual orientation, gender, gender identity or expression, religion, disability, immigration status, English proficiency, housing status, nationality, pregnancy, 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.

Good Disciplinary Standing

Good disciplinary standing shall mean that a student is not eligible to participate while serving a detention or suspension. Good disciplinary standing of any student shall be determined by the principal in consultation with the director of athletics and student activities and other teachers and staff members as appropriate.

Good Academic Standing

Good academic standing at the beginning of the school year for all grades, nine through 12, means successful completion of the previous year's requirements, with no failures. In addition, the previous year's requirements are:

- A. For grade 10, completion in grade nine of at least 1/4 of the credits required to receive a state-endorsed high school diploma;
- B. For grade 11, completion in grade 10 of the same requirements as in A above;
- C. For grade 12, completion in grade 11 of the same requirements as in A above.

Continuing good academic standing requires maintenance of passing grades in all subjects during the current year, and in grade 12 taking enough course credits to complete the high school graduation requirement by the end of the academic year.

A student who begins the year not in good academic standing, who maintains a passing grade in every subject, may request consideration to participate in extracurricular activities at the beginning of the second semester.

Attendance

The district's attendance policy shall also apply.

Home Schooled Students

The Board, consistent with Department of Education guidelines, has determined that a home schooled student may, in the Board's discretion, participate in extracurricular activities. To participate, home schooled students must meet the requirements listed below:

- A. Residency. The home schooled student must reside in the school district and must meet the residency criteria pursuant to N.J.A.C. 6A:22 and provide proof of residence as required by the board. A home

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schooled student must be assigned to the school of record in the same manner as other students.

- B. Notice and Request. The parents of the home schooled student must submit a written request to the principal of the school of record to participate in an extracurricular activity.
- C. Local Compliance. The home schooled student must comply with the same academic and/or other requirements for participation as required of all students in the school of record. The home schooled student must adhere to the same standards of behavior, responsibilities and performance as other members of the extracurricular activity.
- D. Demonstration of Equivalent Education. The parents of the home schooled student must meet with school and/or district administration to demonstrate that the student is receiving an academically equivalent education.
- E. Certification of Academic Eligibility. The parents of the home schooled student must submit evidence satisfactory to the Principal that the home schooled student has met the requirements of the school's own academic policy.
- F. The rights, privileges and responsibilities associated with all other students attending a district school will apply to home schooled students who have satisfied the requirements above.

Implementation

The chief school administrator 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 equity requirements. Participation in academically related coaching or tutoring groups may be exempt from the eligibility requirement at the chief school administrator's discretion.

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Revised:	October 20, 2014
Revised:	October 26, 2015
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Key Words

Extracurricular Activities, Cocurricular Activities, Student Activities, Student Activities

Legal References:

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

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N.J.A.C. 6A:32-14.1 Review of mandated programs and services

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

Cross References:

1210	Community organizations
1320	Participation in out of school community activities
*1322	Contests for students
*2224	Nondiscrimination/affirmative action
*3453	School activity funds
4143	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 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.