

2430 CO-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES (M)

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The Board of Education believes that the goals and objectives of this district are best achieved by a diversity of learning experiences, some of which are more appropriately conducted outside the regular instructional program of the school. The purpose of such co-curricular activities shall be to develop leadership capacities and good organizational skills, to aid in the socialization of students, and to enable students to explore a wider range of individual interests than might be available in the regular curricular program.

The Board shall make school facilities, supplies, and equipment available and assign staff members for the support of a program of co-curricular activities. The Board shall maintain the program of co-curricular activities at no cost to participating students, except that students may be required to provide supplies in accordance with Board Policy No. 2520 on instructional supplies and students may be required to assume all or part of the costs of travel and attendance at co-curricular events and trips.

For purposes of this policy, co-curricular activities are those activities conducted on or off school premises by clubs, associations, and organizations of students sponsored by the Board. Co-curricular activities must be related to the curriculum but are not offered for credit toward promotion or graduation and are ordinarily conducted wholly or partly outside the regular school day. 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.

No co-curricular activity shall be considered to be under the sponsorship of this Board unless it has been approved by the Superintendent.

1. Groups of students may be permitted to form clubs or activity groups and meet in the school provided:
 - a. the club has some form or educational value
 - b. the club has an adult sponsor approved by the Principal
 - c. No student is denied admission by virtue of race, color, creed, socioeconomic status, or other discriminatory practice
 - d. meetings are always open to scrutiny by the Principal



- e. adequate financing is provided for club or activity groups by a process clearly determined when the club or activity group is formed
2. Bylaws governing the operation of the club or activity group shall be written and approved by school Principal before the club or activity group is officially recognized by the Superintendent. Two copies of these bylaws shall be forwarded, upon approval, to the Superintendent of Schools and/or designee, who has the power to order the club disbanded if its organization or functions are not in agreement with the policy.

Students shall be fully informed of the co-curricular activities available to them and of the eligibility standards established for participation in co-curricular activities. Co-curricular activities shall be available to all students who voluntarily elect to participate.

1. The Board will not permit the organization of a fraternity, sorority, or secret society.
2. Student Membership in Competitive Groups
 - a. Because of the unique nature of some co-curricular groups, student membership must be determined on a competitive basis.
 - b. The Board of Education believes that students are entitled to compete for membership in such groups on a fair, impartial and non-biased basis.
 - c. Furthermore, the Board intends that students will receive full advanced knowledge of:
 - (1) The requirements for membership
 - (2) The dates for tryouts
 - (3) The tryout expectations and procedures
 - (4) The persons acting as judges
 - (5) Reasons for non-selection
 - d. To implement these beliefs and intentions, the Board expects Principals who have such groups in their schools to prepare and place on file in their and in the Superintendent's Office by the start of each year, all procedures consistent with the requirements of this policy governing each competitive group in their school. At year's end, all Principals must submit end of year reports that include, but are not limited to, dated, sign in/sign out logs, which provide evidence of the level of student participation. The Superintendent and cabinet shall prepare procedures to implement a co-curricular program and shall assess the needs and interests of the students of this district and provide for the continuing evaluation of the co-curricular program.



POLICY

WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDUCATION

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39 U.S.C.A. 1701 et seq.

N.J.S.A. 18A:11-3; 18A:42-2; 18A:42-5

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