

**THE NEWARK PUBLIC SCHOOLS**  
**Newark, New Jersey**  
**POLICY**

**FILE CODE: 6145**

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**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;
- E. To enable pupils to explore a wider range of individuals 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;

## 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 overenthusiastic 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. Fund-raising 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 Schools extracurricular activity follows the rules and procedures as outlined below. Eligibility for interscholastic athletic participation 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 27.5 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 13.75 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 8<sup>th</sup> grade final report card are eligible for Fall and Winter sports and Extracurricular participation; however, any incoming freshman who is sixteen before

## EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES (Continued)

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.
- 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) Students who do not meet the GPA requirement of 2.0 during the previous semester are academically ineligible.
- i) During the students' academic history, grades 9 – 12, a parent/guardian may petition the Principal for the right to exercise a one-time probationary period for their child to participate for the season. The one-time probationary period applies only to students whose previous semester GPA is between 1.5 - 1.9. This request is to be received, reviewed, and a determination rendered no later than the day prior to try-outs.
- j) A student on academic probation or a student whose GPA is 2.0 - 2.5 is mandated to participate in and receive academic supports such as mandatory tutorial programs, assigned mentors, and credit/grade recovery.
- k) 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) from school, he/she will be suspended immediately from any athletic competition for one week (7 full days beginning on the day of the suspension). The student will still be expected to report to practice for additional duties. 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).
- l) 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, and Advisor/Head Coach. Once removed, in order for the student to be eligible for participation again, he/she must improve their grades at or above the 2.0 GPA requirement during that semester.

**EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES** (Continued)

m) Students with GPA's above 2.5 are to participate in after school study sessions while in season.

The principal is responsible for assuring that all participants in his/her school are eligible for extracurricular participation and 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: TBA

<b><u>Legal References:</u></b>	<u>N.J.S.A.</u> 10:5-1 <u>et seq.</u>	Law Against Discrimination
	<u>N.J.S.A.</u> 18A:11-3	Voluntary association regulating conduct of student activities; membership; rules and regulations; appeals
	<u>N.J.S.A.</u> 18A:19-14	Funds derived from pupil 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> 34:13A-1 <u>et seq.</u>	Certain student organizations declared harmful
	<u>N.J.A.C.</u> 6:3-8.1 <u>et seq.</u>	Athletics Procedures
	<u>N.J.A.C.</u> 6:8-4.1	Review of mandated programs and services
	<u>N.J.A.C.</u> 6:11-3.24	Athletics personnel
	<u>N.J.A.C.</u> 6A:7-1.1 <u>et seq.</u>	Managing for Equality and Equity in Education
	<u>N.J.A.C.</u> 6A:8-3.2	Career awareness and exploration
	<u>N.J.A.C.</u> 6A:16-2.2	Required student medical examinations
	<u>N.J.A.C.</u> 6A:30-1.1 <u>et seq.</u>	Evaluation of the Performance of School Districts

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

**EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES** (Continued)

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

Krupp v. Bd. of Ed. of Union County Req. 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)

<b><u>Cross References:</u></b>	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
	6145.1/6145.2	Intramural competition; interscholastic competition
	6146	Graduation requirements
	6153	Field trips