

EXTRACURRICULAR 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. Pupil participation shall not be at the expense of academic achievement.

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 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 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 Superintendent shall prepare procedures to implement an extracurricular program which 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;
- 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. The same academic and disciplinary standards that apply to competitive interscholastic eligibility shall apply for all extracurricular activities that require large amounts of practice time, such as band, cheerleading, dramatic projects, chorus, etc. Academically related coaching or tutoring groups may be exempted at the discretion of the principal.

Only persons in the employ of a 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.

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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. Fundraising 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, creed, color, national origin, ancestry, age, marital status, familial status, affectional or sexual orientation, gender, gender identity or expression, religion, disability, nationality, pregnancy, or socioeconomic status.

Home School Participation

The Board of Education reserves the right to determine eligibility for homeschool students to participate in Kittatinny Regional School District sponsored activities. It is the decision of the Board of Education that homeschool participation be prohibited in school sponsored activities at this time. The Board will discuss and revisit this policy on an annual basis to assess the current laws and regulations regarding homeschool participation.

Academic Eligibility

Pupil participation shall not be at the expense of academic achievement.

A. Eligibility

1. To be eligible for athletic/extracurricular participation during the first semester (September 1 through January 31) of the 10th grade or higher, or the second year of attendance in the secondary school or beyond, a pupil must have passed 25% of the credits (35), required by Kittatinny Regional High School for graduation (140), during the immediately preceding academic year.
2. To be eligible for athletic/extracurricular participation during the second semester (February 1 to June 30) of the 9th grade or higher, a pupil must have passed the equivalent of 12-1/2% of the credits (17.5) required by Kittatinny Regional High School for graduation (140), at the close of the preceding semester (January 31). Full-year courses shall be equated as one-half of the total credits to be gained for the full year to determine credits passed during the immediately preceding semester.

B. If a pupil does not meet the academic requirements as outlined in Category A for any semester, the pupil will immediately be denied participation in athletic teams and extracurricular activities for the semester, e.g., Puma, cheerleaders, color guard, drill team, twirlers, health careers, marching band, Madrigals, drama productions, National Honor Society, synchronized swimming, Tapestry, student council, intramurals, ski club, class officer, AIASA, etc. This list represents clubs and activities and should not be construed to be final in listing. Eligibility to participate will be reinstated at the end of the non-participating semester if academic standards are met.

C. Determination of academic eligibility is the responsibility of the head coach or the activity advisor working in conjunction with the director of athletics and/or the guidance department.

D. Academic eligibility requirements for participation in athletic and other extracurricular activities affect all pupils in the school. (Classified pupils can be exempt from said policy only if their IEP designates such.)

E. Eligibility is determined by grades received in each semester and the final yearly grades.

F. Summer school work to make up course deficiencies can be applied to reinstatement/eligibility.

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- G. Students who are eligible through state guidelines (13.75 per semester or 27.5 credits per year) but ineligible through Kittatinny guidelines (17.5 credits per semester or 35 credits per year) may appeal their eligibility through the office of the principal. Extraordinary circumstances as determined through discussions with support staff will be cause for reconsideration.
- H. Students deemed eligible through the office of the principal will be required to sign a contract with coach/activity advisor for the upcoming marking period(s) with the following stipulations:
1. That all grades will be passing during the ensuing marking period(s).
 - a) Grades will be determined by Progress Reports and Report Cards.
 - b) This requirement shall remain in effect until the semester ends.
 2. Failure to be passing all courses as noted by the Progress Report or failure of a course indicated by the Report Card shall result in the student's ineligibility and immediate removal from the team/activity.

Disciplinary Eligibility

- A. Suspension from school prohibits the participation in and attendance at activities of the school during the time of the suspension -- inclusive of all athletic events and practices and extracurricular activities and rehearsals/practices.
- B. Time of arrival - Pupils who enter school later than 11:00 a.m. are prohibited from participating in school-sponsored extracurricular activities later in that day or evening. Exceptions to the designated time of arrival may be granted for unusual circumstances by the vice principal and/or principal.
- C. In addition to complying with all local requirements, pupils participating in the interscholastic program must also meet all eligibility requirements of the New Jersey Interscholastic Athletic Association.
- D. A pupil is not eligible to participate while serving a detention.
- E. 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.

Attendance

The district's attendance policy shall also apply.

Transportation

The Superintendent shall oversee arrangements for transportation of pupils to any school-related extracurricular activity.

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

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Legal References:

<u>N.J.S.A.</u> 10:5-1 <u>et seq.</u>	Law Against Discrimination
<u>N.J.S.A.</u> 18A:11-1	General mandatory powers and duties
<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 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> 18A:42-5, -6	Certain student organizations declared harmful
<u>N.J.S.A.</u> 34:13A-1 <u>et seq.</u>	<u>New Jersey Employer-Employee Relations Act</u>
<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 education and counseling
<u>N.J.A.C.</u> 6A:9-5.19	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 <u>et seq.</u>	Evaluation of the Performance of School Districts
<u>N.J.A.C.</u> 6A:32-9.1 <u>et seq.</u>	Athletics Procedures
<u>N.J.A.C.</u> 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)

NJSIAA Constitution, Bylaws, Rules and Regulations

Possible

<u>Cross References:</u>	1210	Community organizations
	1320	Participation in out of school community activities
	*1322	Contests for pupils
	*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

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* Indicates policy is included in the Critical Policy Reference Manual

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