

CONTESTS FOR PUPILS

The Chief School Administrator (CSA) shall approve participation in extracurricular contests sponsored by organizations outside the schools, as long as participation does not interfere with the instructional program. When such contests involve promotional aid, school time, or faculty assistance to pupils in essay writing, poster making, or other activities, the CSA shall determine whether the experiences are closely enough allied to and in support of the instructional work of the school and will clearly serve to advance the educational aims of the district. The worthiness of the sponsoring agency's cause or the opportunity for individuals to win prizes shall not in themselves constitute sufficient reason for approving a contest.

Contests and awards whether local, state, or national shall be:

- A. For the benefit of the pupil;
- B. Open to all pupils on a non-discriminatory basis;
- C. Consistent with district objectives;
- D. Judged by disinterested parties;
- E. Properly supervised with safety precautions in place;
- F. Voluntary for pupils and teachers.

Contests and awards shall not place undue time or financial burdens on pupils, teachers and parents. They shall not promote commercial products or partisan viewpoints unless otherwise approved by the Board of Education (Board) for support of programs and services in a sponsorship manner consistent with the mission of the District. Participation shall not be dependent on the financial status of the pupil.

Participation in contests is optional with the individual pupil. While the board does not intend to refuse to cooperate with agencies sponsoring worthwhile contests, it wishes to keep such cooperation within reasonable bounds. The following statements shall be a guide for determining participation in contests:

- A. The primary educational aims of the school and the needs and interests of its pupils must be a consideration at all times.
- B. The school shall not be used to promote private or commercial interests unless otherwise approved by the Board of Education (Board) for support of programs and services in a sponsorship manner consistent with the mission of the District.
- C. The school shall not be used for direct sales promotion of individual competitive goods or services unless otherwise approved by the Board of Education (Board) for support of programs and services in a sponsorship manner consistent with the mission of the District.
- D. All materials or activities initiated by private sources shall be judged on grounds of their direct contribution to educational values, factual accuracy, and good taste.
- E. Consideration shall be given in all cases to protecting pupils and teachers against unreasonable added work and responsibilities

All contests must be approved by the designated administrator before a class or school may participate as a group representing the district.

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Key Words

Contests for Pupils, Awards

Legal References

Legal References: N.J.S.A. 18A:11-1 General mandatory powers and duties
 N.J.S.A. 18A:42-2 School orchestra not to compete with civilian musicians; exceptions
 N.J.S.A. 18A:54-20 Powers of board (county vocational schools)

Possible

Cross References: 1314 Fundraising by outside organizations
 1320 Participation in out-of-school community activities
 *3280 Gifts, grants and bequests
 *5126 Awards for achievement
 *6145 Extracurricular activities
 *6145.1/6145.2 Intramural competition; interscholastic competition
 6145.4 Public performances and exhibitions
 *6153 Field trips

* Indicates policy is included in the Critical Policy Reference Manual

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