

Book	Policy Manual
Section	100 Programs
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Purpose

The Board believes that the district's goals and objectives are best achieved by a diversity of learning experiences, some of which are more appropriately conducted outside the regular curricular program of the schools.

All learning experiences offered by the schools, curricular and extracurricular, shall be planned and integrated toward attainment of the district's educational objectives.

Definitions

For purposes of this policy, extracurricular activities shall be those programs that are sponsored or approved by the Board and are conducted outside the regular school day; are marked by student participation in the processes of initiation, planning, organizing, and execution; and are equally available to all students who voluntarily elect to participate. Examples of activities that are considered extracurricular activities include, but are not limited to, athletics, clubs, school plays, and student council. [1][2]

For purposes of this policy, **cocurricular activities** are those activities that are sponsored by the Board, are offered for credit toward graduation, and/or have required components of their programs that require attendance at and participation in activities scheduled during non-school hours. Examples of activities that are considered **cocurricular activities** include, but are not limited to, choir and band performances and practices during non-school hours, marching band, non-school hour musical select ensembles, world language travel for credit, and non-school hour field trips which are connected to a certain course or class during school hours.

Authority

The Board shall make school facilities, supplies, and equipment available and shall assign staff members for the support of extracurricular activities for students. Such availability and assignment shall be in accordance with the Equal Access Act. [3][4][5][6]

Any extracurricular activity shall be considered to be under the sponsorship of this Board when it has been approved by the Superintendent or his/her designee.

Delegation of Responsibility

The Superintendent or designee shall prepare procedures to implement the extracurricular activities program.

Guidelines

Guidelines shall ensure that the program of extracurricular activities:

1. Assesses the needs and interests of and is responsive to district students.
2. Involves students in developing and planning extracurricular activities.
3. Ensures provision of competent guidance and supervision by staff.
4. Guards against exploitation of students.
5. Provides for continuing evaluation of the program and its components.
6. Ensures that students are given the opportunity to participate in extracurricular activities and students have access to information regarding their availability. [1][7]

Equal Access Act

The district shall provide secondary students the opportunity for noncurricular-related student groups to meet on the school premises during non-instructional time for the purpose of conducting a meeting within the limited open forum on the basis of religious, political,

philosophical, or other content of the speech at such meetings. Such meetings must be voluntary, student-initiated, and not sponsored in any way by the school, its agents or employees.[4]

Non-instructional time is the time set aside by the school before actual classroom instruction begins or after actual classroom instruction ends.

The meetings cannot materially and substantially interfere with the orderly conduct of the educational activities in the school.

The district retains the authority to maintain order and discipline on school premises to protect the well-being of students and employees and to ensure that student attendance at such meetings is voluntary.

CODE OF CONDUCT

Student participation in any cocurricular/extracurricular/athletic activity is a privilege, which may be revoked or suspended when the established rules or regulations are violated. Students who desire to participate in cocurricular/ extracurricular/athletic activities are expected to properly conduct themselves at all times. Each program may establish additional rules, which apply specifically to that program. The rules and regulations in this code shall apply to any on and off school premises violation. It is the responsibility of the student to become familiar with and follow the guidelines in this code. The following misconduct shall constitute grounds for immediate suspension and potential expulsion from practices, participation in interscholastic practices and competition, and/or participation in cocurricular/extracurricular activities. These violations need not result in a citation from the local police or an arrest in order to be considered a violation of this Code of Conduct.[8]

1. Any violation of law or conduct by a student participant that is determined by the coach/advisor and school administration to be detrimental to the cocurricular/extracurricular or athletic program may result in suspension and/or dismissal from the sport/activity. Before permanent dismissal from the activity occurs, a conference will be held with the student, coach/advisor, parent/guardian, and administrator.
2. Violations of these guidelines will result in at least a suspension from one (1) game/contest/performance but may also result in dismissal from the program/activity/sport.
3. A student who is suspended out of school as per Policy 227 may not participate in any activity after school on the day of the suspension. For suspensions that carry from the end of the week to the beginning of the following week or extend over non-school days, the student will not be permitted to participate in any activity that is scheduled for those days. [9]
4. A student found in violation of this Code of Conduct may be referred to the Student Assistance Team.

Unsportsmanlike Conduct

A display of unsportsmanlike/inappropriate behavior directed toward an opponent, teammate, official, coach/advisor, or another student or the use of profanity is unacceptable at any time. The coach/advisor and/or an administrator will address all offenses. If this occurs during a practice, contest, or activity, it will result in an immediate action. If this type of behavior occurs more than once, a student may be suspended from the program. Students are not permitted to be with the team/student group during the suspension. Gross misconduct by any athlete/student will mean immediate removal/suspension from the team/activity.

This misconduct may include, but is not limited to:

1. Verbal/Physical abuse of participant, official, teammate, coach, and teacher or staff member.
2. The use of violence, force, coercion, threat, intimidation, or similar conduct in a manner that constitutes a substantial interference with school purposes.
3. Causing or attempting to cause physical injury to a school employee, school student or any other person. Physical injury caused by accident, self-defense, or other action undertaken on the reasonable belief that it was necessary to protect another person shall not constitute a violation of this subdivision.
4. Knowingly possessing, handling, or transporting any object or material that is ordinarily or generally considered a weapon, capable of harming another or intended to be used for unlawful purposes, while on school property and/or at a school-sponsored event. A student, who possesses, handles or transports a weapon on behalf of another student, even if without intent to use the weapon, shall have violated this Code of Conduct.[10]
5. Threatening or intimidating any student for the purpose of obtaining money or anything of value from this student.
6. Use of abusive language, or obscene gestures, or willful indecent exposure.

Theft or Malicious Destruction of Property

This misconduct shall include, but is not limited to, willfully causing or attempting to cause damage to school property, stealing or attempting to steal private or school property.

1. **First Offense:** The individual will be suspended from the program. At the end of this suspension period, following conference with the head coach/advisor and school administrator, a decision regarding reinstatement will be made. Return of stolen items and/or restitution must occur prior to the possibility of reinstatement. Police will be notified.
2. **Subsequent Offense:** A subsequent offense will result in a dismissal from the program and a referral of the student to the school administrator for other appropriate disciplinary action. Police will be notified.

Illegal Activity

Engaging in any other activity forbidden by the laws of the State of Pennsylvania, that actively constitutes a danger to other students or interferes with school purposes, including participation in the use of alcohol/drugs will constitute a Code of Conduct violation. Participants in athletic or other extracurricular/cocurricular activities are expected to avoid the consumption, possession, or distribution of drugs/alcohol, and to refrain from involvement in any illegal activities. They are also expected to avoid activities in which alcohol, or any illegal substance is being used or presented with the possible intent of use. While participating in an athletic or other extracurricular activity, no student will use, possess, or distribute alcoholic beverages, steroids, controlled substances, look-alikes, or possess drug-related paraphernalia on or off school property.[9]

Any student, who has been adjudicated delinquent, found guilty of a crime, offers a plea of guilty or a plea of no contest related to an activity committed on or off school property will be dismissed from participation by administration.

In cases described above, a central office hearing may also be convened to determine other appropriate disciplinary action up to and including expulsion.[8][11]

Threats, Bullying, Intimidation, Hazing and/or Initiation Ceremonies

The school district believes that students must be protected from threats, bullying, intimidation, hazing and/or initiation ceremonies. All verbal, written, or physical conduct that harasses, humiliates, or persecutes students, or disrupts or interferes with any student's curricular or extracurricular experiences will not be tolerated.[12][13]

Any student found, after investigation, to have engaged in any forms of this misconduct would be subject to disciplinary actions up to and including expulsion.

Any student, employee, or volunteer who witnesses or has knowledge of such misconduct activities and fails to report such actions will also be subject to appropriate disciplinary actions.

Performance Enhancing Supplements

In order to minimize health and safety risks to student-athletes and maintain ethical standards, students will not supply, recommend or use any drug, medication, or food supplement solely for performance-enhancing purposes.

The Board prohibits the use of anabolic steroids by students involved in school-related athletics, except for a valid medical purpose. Bodybuilding and muscle enhancement of athletic ability are not valid medical purposes.[9][14]

Students shall be made aware of the dangers of steroid use; that anabolic steroids are classified as controlled substances; and that use, unauthorized possession, purchase or sale could result in suspension, expulsion and/or criminal prosecution.[11][15]

No student shall be eligible to resume participation in cocurricular, extracurricular, or athletic activities unless a medical determination has been submitted verifying that no residual evidence of steroid use exists.

In addition to the parameters set forth in a violation of Policy 227, Controlled Substances, the following minimum penalties are prescribed for any student athlete or extracurricular activity participant found in possession of or using anabolic steroids:[9]

1. For a **first** violation, suspension from school athletics for the remainder of the season.
2. For any **subsequent** violation, dismissal from the extracurricular, cocurricular and/or athletic activities.