

THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF
PHILADELPHIA

No. 122

Section: 100

Title: Extra-Curricular
Activities

Adopted: April 27, 1981

Revised: November 21,
2019

122 Extra-Curricular Activities

Purpose

The Board of Education (“Board”) believes that the goals and objectives of the District are best achieved by diverse learning experiences, some of which are more appropriately conducted outside the regular or required curricular program.

Definitions

The following words and phrases, when used in this policy, shall have the meaning given to them in this section:

Extracurricular activity: Those activities which are sponsored or approved by the Chief Schools Officer as the Superintendent’s designee, but are not explicitly connected to academic learning, including all of the following: [1][2]

1. An athletic contest or competition, other than interscholastic athletics, that is sponsored by or associated with a school, including cheerleading, club-sponsored sports activities and sports activities sponsored by school-affiliated organizations;
2. Noncompetitive cheerleading that is sponsored by or associated with a school;
3. Practices, interschool practices and scrimmages for all athletic activities;
4. Student Leadership programs;
5. Arts and enrichment programs; and
6. Other clubs and activities approved by the school Principal.

Non-curriculum related student group: Any student group or student club that does not directly relate to the body of courses offered by the school.

Authority

The District 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]

The Board encourages students to pursue clubs and interests that may not be related directly to any of the curriculum programs offered in the District. In pursuit of such goal and in compliance with law, the Board maintains a limited open forum during non-instructional time in which students in grades 6-12 may meet for voluntary student-initiated activities unrelated directly to the curriculum, regardless of the religious, political, philosophical or other content of the speech related to such activities.

“Extracurricular activities” shall:

1. Ordinarily be conducted wholly or partly outside the regular school day;
2. Contribute to the attainment of District objectives;
3. Be marked by student participation in the processes of initiation, planning, organizing, and execution;
4. Be equally available to all students who voluntarily elect to participate; and
5. Be limited to students who are enrolled in the District on a full-time basis unless participation is mandated by law or as set forth in the administrative guidelines. [3]

Any extracurricular activity shall be considered under the sponsorship of the District only when it has been approved by the Chief of Schools Office, as the Superintendent’s designee.

The District shall offer a program of extracurricular activities at no cost to participating students, except that:

1. The District’s responsibility for provision of supplies shall carry the same exemptions as listed in the Board’s policy on regular school supplies.
2. Students may be required to assume all or part of the costs for travel and attendance at extracurricular events and trips.

Eligibility Requirements

The Board directs that no student may participate in extracurricular activities who has not:

1. Met the requirements for academic eligibility for the desired activity; and
2. Adhered to applicable attendance and discipline standards of the District. [7][8]

Nondiscrimination

All students and employees must adhere to applicable Board policies on nondiscrimination, including Policy 103 (Nondiscrimination in School and Classroom Practices), 103.1 (Nondiscrimination - Qualified Students with Disabilities/Protected Handicapped Students) and Policy 252 (Transgender and Gender Non-Conforming Students). [5][6][9]

Bullying/Cyberbullying and Hazing

All students and employees must adhere to Board Policy 247 (Hazing) and Board Policy 249 (Bullying/Cyberbullying).[10][11]

Off-Campus Activities

For extracurricular activities conducted away from the school campus, schools are required to comply with the administrative procedures in Policy 121 Field Trips, Social Events and Class Trips. [12]

The District's Code of Student Conduct applies to certain student conduct that occurs off school property as set forth in Policy 218. [8]

Delegation of Responsibility

The Superintendent or designee, through the Chief of Schools Office, shall be responsible for the administration of the extracurricular activities program and shall prepare Administrative Procedures to ensure that the program of extracurricular activities:

1. Assesses the needs and interests of and is responsive to District students;
2. Invites the participation of parents/guardians and community in developing extracurricular activities. Such participation shall be in accordance with the Equal Access Act; [4]
3. Involves students in developing and planning extracurricular activities;
4. Ensures provision of competent guidance and supervision by staff;
5. Guards against exploitation of students;
6. Provides a variety of experiences and diversity of organizational models;
7. Provides for continuing evaluation of the program and its components; and
8. Ensures that all extracurricular activities are open to all students and that all students are fully informed of the opportunities available to them. [1][12]

All student groups shall adhere to Board Policy 121 Field Trips, Social Events, and Class Trips and related administrative procedures. [13]

Students participating in Interscholastic Athletics shall adhere to Board Policy 123 Interscholastic Athletics and related administrative procedures. [14]

Guidelines

Equal Access Act

The District shall provide students the opportunity for non-curriculum related student groups to meet on 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, after actual classroom instruction ends, or during the lunch hour.

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

The Superintendent or designee shall establish the length of sessions, number per week, and other limitations deemed reasonably necessary.

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

The list of extra-curricular activities for each school will be made publicly available on the school's website.

The Office of Schools will submit an annual report to the Board regarding extracurricular activities offered in schools, monitoring to ensure schools are offering sufficient extracurricular opportunities with equitable access as defined by Title IX and student programming.

Legal References:

1. [24 P.S. § 5322](#)
2. [24 P.S. § 5332](#)
3. 22 Pa. Code § 12.1. Free education and attendance
4. 20 U.S.C. §§ 4071, *et seq.*
5. [Policy 103](#). Nondiscrimination in School and Classroom Practices

6. [Policy 103.1](#). Nondiscrimination-Qualified Students with Disabilities-Protected Handicapped Students
7. [Policy 204](#). Attendance
8. [Policy 218](#). Code of Student Conduct
9. [Policy 252](#). Transgender and Gender Non-conforming Students
10. [Policy 247](#). Hazing
11. [Policy 249](#). Bullying Cyberbullying
12. 22 Pa. Code § 12.4
13. [Policy 121](#). Field Trips, Social Events, and Class Trips
14. [Policy 123](#). Interscholastic Athletics

Related References:

24 P.S. § 5-511

24 P.S. 5321, *et seq.*