

# THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF PHILADELPHIA

SECTION: PROGRAMS

TITLE: Extracurricular Activities

ADOPTED: April 27, 1981

REVISED: January 19, 2017

## 122. EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

### **Purpose**

The School Reform Commission believes that the 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 or required curricular program.

### **Definitions**

For purposes of this policy, extracurricular activities shall be those programs that are sponsored or approved by the SRC. Such activities shall:[\[1\]](#)

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, subject to the eligibility requirements of this policy.

For purposes of this policy, an athletic activity shall mean all of the following:[\[2\]](#)[\[3\]](#)

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.

### Authority

The SRC 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.[4][5][6]

The SRC encourages secondary level 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 SRC maintains a limited open forum in which secondary students 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.

Any extracurricular activity shall be considered under the sponsorship of this district when it has been approved by the SRC upon recommendation of the Superintendent.

The SRC shall maintain the 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 SRC's policy on regular school supplies.[7]
2. Students may be required to assume all or part of the costs for travel and attendance at extracurricular events and trips.

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

1. Met the requirements for academic eligibility.
2. Adhered to applicable attendance and discipline standards of the district.[8][9]

### Transgender Participation

Keeping in accordance with the SRC Policy 252 (Transgender and Gender Non-Conforming Students), the principal will serve as the primary point of contact for any questions or concerns regarding Pennsylvania Interscholastic Athletic Association (PIAA) matters. All students and employees must adhere to SRC policy.[15]

### Bullying and Hazing

All students and employees must adhere to SRC Policy 247 (Hazing) and SRC Policy 249 (Bullying/Cyberbullying).[16][17]

### Off-Campus Activities

This policy shall also apply to student conduct that occurs off school property and would otherwise violate the Code of Student Conduct if any of the following circumstances exist:

1. The conduct occurs during the time the student is traveling to and from school or traveling to and from school-sponsored activities, whether or not via school district

furnished transportation.

2. The student is a member of an extracurricular activity and has been notified that particular off-campus conduct could result in exclusion from such activities.
3. Student expression or conduct materially and substantially disrupts the operations of the school, or the administration reasonably anticipates that the expression or conduct is likely to materially and substantially disrupt the operations of the school.
4. The conduct has a direct nexus to attendance at school or a school-sponsored activity, for example, a transaction conducted outside of school pursuant to an agreement made in school, that would violate the Code of Student Conduct if conducted in school.
5. The conduct involves the theft or vandalism of school property.
6. There is otherwise a nexus between the proximity or timing of the conduct in relation to the student's attendance at school or school-sponsored activities.

### **Delegation of Responsibility**

Per Pennsylvania Interscholastic Athletic Association (PIAA) rules, all student athletes must have their PIAA CIPPE Form filled out by a physician, and signed by both the student-athlete and his/her parent/guardian.

Each school year, prior to participation in an athletic activity, every student athlete and his/her parent/guardian shall sign and return the acknowledgement of receipt and review of the following: [\[10\]](#)[\[11\]](#)[\[12\]](#)[\[13\]](#)

1. Concussion and Traumatic Brain Injury Information Sheet.
2. Sudden Cardiac Arrest Symptoms and Warning Signs Information Sheet.

The Superintendent or designee shall be responsible for the administration of the extracurricular activities program, and shall develop administrative procedures to implement the program. All student groups shall adhere to SRC policy and administrative procedures.

### **Guidelines**

Guidelines shall 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.
8. Ensures that all extracurricular activities are open to all students and that all students are fully informed of the opportunities available to them.[\[14\]\[1\]](#)

#### Equal Access Act

The district shall provide secondary students the opportunity for noncurriculum-related student groups to meet on the school premises during noninstructional 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.

#### Legal References

1. 22 PA Code 12.1
2. 24 P.S. 5322
3. 24 P.S. 5332
4. 20 U.S.C. 4071 et seq
5. Pol. 103
6. Pol. 103.1
7. Pol. 110
8. Pol. 204
9. Pol. 218
10. 24 P.S. 5323
11. 24 P.S. 5333
12. Pol. 123.1

13. Pol. 123.2

14. 22 PA Code 12.4

15. Pol. 252

16. Pol. 247

17. Pol. 249

24 P.S. 511

24 P.S. 5321 et seq

24 P.S. 5331 et seq

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Pol. 123