

THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF SOUTH ORANGE AND MAPLEWOOD, NEW JERSEY

PROGRAMS

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~~Equal Access of Student Organizations~~ Co-Curricular Activities

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~~2430 – EQUAL ACCESS OF STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS~~ CO-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

The Board of Education believes that the goals and objectives of this district are best achieved by a diversity of learning experiences, some of which are appropriately conducted outside the regular instructional program of the school. The purpose of such co-curricular activities shall be to develop leadership capacities and good organizational skills, to aid in the socialization of students, and to enable students to explore a wider range of individual interests than might be available in the regular curricular program. ~~Therefore, the Board will permit groups of secondary students, those enrolled in middle and high school, to form organizations dedicated to specific purposes.~~

The Board shall make school facilities, supplies, and equipment available and assign staff members for the support of a program of co-curricular activities for students in grades 6 through 12. The Board shall maintain the program of co-curricular activities at no cost to participating students, except that students may be required to provide supplies in accordance with Board Policy No. 2520 on instructional supplies and students may be required to assume all or part of the costs of travel and attendance at co-curricular events and trips.

- For purposes of this policy, co-curricular activities are those activities conducted on or off school premises by clubs, associations, and organizations of students sponsored by the Board and do not include athletic competitions and practices. Co-curricular activities must be related to the curriculum and/or standards and may be offered for credit toward promotion or graduation. Such activities are ordinarily conducted wholly or partly outside the regular school day.

~~This policy and related regulations shall govern all organizations of secondary students, and those organizations only, except for interscholastic athletic teams, which shall be exempt. The Superintendent shall prepare procedures for administering a program of activities and provide for its continuing evaluation.~~

The Board will permit the use of school facilities by organizations of students during student activity periods. No group of students, regardless of the size of the group, will be denied an opportunity to meet on the basis of the religious, political, philosophical, or other content of the speech at their meeting.

- No co-curricular activity shall be considered to be under the sponsorship of this Board unless it has been approved by the Superintendent.

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Students shall be fully informed of the co-curricular activities available to them and of the eligibility standards established for participation in co-curricular activities. Co-curricular activities shall be available to all students who voluntarily elect to participate.

The Board will not permit the organization of a fraternity, sorority, or secret society.

A student in grades 6 through 12 is ineligible for participation in co-curricular activities if he/she has:

1. Demonstrated unsatisfactory attendance by receiving a warning notice of unsatisfactory attendance;
2. Received a notice of warning of failure in a course required for promotion or graduation in the preceding semester; or
3. Received a notice of warning of failure in a course required for promotion or graduation in the current semester.

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Exceptions to this policy may be authorized by the school principal and/or athletic director and shall create regulations to provide a process for students to gain access to the co-curricular activity if one of the above instances occurs.

Notwithstanding these standards, a student who has commenced preparation for participation in a public performance of a concert, recital, drama, debate or the like may continue to participate until the student has completed the performance.

39 U.S.C.A. 1701 et seq.

N.J.S.A. 18A:11-3; 18A:42-2; 18A:42-5

Limited Open Forum

~~The secondary schools shall provide a limited open forum, allowing students to congregate both for purposes that are directly associated with the curriculum ("co-curricular") and those that are not ("extra-curricular"). For the purposes of this policy a student group shall be considered "co-curricular" if the subject matter of the group is actually taught, or will soon be taught, in a regularly offered course; if the subject matter concerns the body of courses as a whole; if participation in the group is required for a particular course; or if participation in the group results in academic credit. All groups not meeting one of these criteria shall be considered "extra-curricular," with the exception of interscholastic athletic teams, which shall not be subject to this policy~~

~~Extra-curricular groups may be by nature either non-advocacy groups or advocacy groups. For the purposes of this policy, the term "non-advocacy group" shall be defined as an extra-curricular student group that maintains neutrality of viewpoint with respect to the religious, political,~~

~~philosophical or other content of speech at its meetings or as part of its charter, central purpose, or activities. The term "advocacy group" shall be defined as an extra-curricular student group that does not maintain neutrality of viewpoint with respect to the religious, political, philosophical or other content of speech at its meetings or as part of its charter, central purpose or activities.~~

~~Advocacy groups shall not be permitted to meet or perform in situations where student attendance is compulsory (e.g., assemblies) or during other instructional times. Specific exception may be made by the Superintendent if the advocacy group's role is to provide a representative sample of a cultural or religious practice or to make a contextual statement of belief that serves to illustrate a genre or type, and only if the group and its activity or performance is introduced explicitly in that context. When the school is clearly in command of an event (e.g., assemblies or school announcements) particular care shall be taken not to appear to endorse the viewpoint of an advocacy group.~~

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~~No group of students shall be denied an opportunity to meet on the basis of the religious, political, or philosophical content of the speech at their meeting. The size of the group of students shall be a consideration only where issues of safety or the orderly operation of the school are involved.~~

Sponsorship and Supervision

- ~~1.—Student groups which are sponsored will enjoy the right to use the school's or district's name in conjunction with the group's name and may, at the discretion of the Board, receive a faculty or administrative advisor who receives a stipend. Student groups other than those sponsored by the District are prohibited from using "Columbia High School" or any other phrase that implies sponsorship of an individual district school or of the South Orange-Maplewood School District in connection with the name of their group. These non-sponsored groups shall not receive a stipended advisor.~~
- ~~2.—Co-curricular groups and extra-curricular groups that are non-advocacy by nature may, at the discretion of the Board, be sponsored by the school district or its employees; student advocacy groups shall not be so sponsored. The school district shall maintain an attitude of neutrality with respect to the viewpoints expressed by non-sponsored groups.~~
- ~~3.—Meetings of non-sponsored student groups shall be student-initiated and shall be attended throughout by a certified staff member who will perform custodial functions for the meeting. Custodial functions comprise only those activities required to maintain order and discipline and to assure that the attendance of students is voluntary. No staff member serving in a custodial role, nor any agent or employee of the district, shall promote, lead, or participate in the meeting.~~
- ~~4.—Meetings of student groups must not require the expenditure of public funds beyond the incidental costs of providing space for the meeting, except that the Board may approve stipends for certified staff members that serve as advisors to sponsored groups and hourly~~

~~wages for those certified staff members that perform custodial functions for non-sponsored groups.~~

~~5.—Students may invite outside speakers to their meetings; however, these persons may not direct, conduct, control, or regularly attend meetings or activities of student groups. A non-sponsored group meeting may be attended by no more than one outside resource person.~~

~~6.—The Superintendent or his/her designee may take such actions as may be necessary to maintain order and discipline on school premises, to protect the safety and well-being of students and staff members, and to safeguard school buildings and property.~~

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Time and Manner

~~1.—Students shall be permitted to meet during non-instructional time, and may be permitted to meet before school or after school consistent with standard operational hours of school buildings. No student shall be present at a meeting at a time when he or she is required by school rules to be elsewhere unless permission from a classroom teacher is obtained. These restrictions also apply at all times during which the school requires the particular student or all students to be off school property or outside the school building.~~

~~2.—All student attendance at meetings of extra-curricular groups shall be voluntary.~~

~~3.—Participation in student groups shall be available to all pupils who wish to participate and cannot be denied on the basis of a student's race, color, creed, religion, gender, national origin, disability, socio-economic status, or sexual orientation.~~

~~4.—Where eligibility requirements such as the maintenance of a minimum grade point average may be necessary or desirable for a specific organization, the Board shall be so informed and must approve the establishment of such eligibility standards before they may be operable.~~

~~5.—The Board will not permit the organization of a fraternity, sorority, or secret society.~~

~~6.—Meetings shall be conducted for a lawful purpose. No meeting may include any activity that is unlawful or that materially and substantially interferes with the orderly conduct of educational activities within the school.~~

Facilities, Funding and Communications

~~1.—No student group, whether sponsored by the Board or not, may use school facilities without prior written permission of the Superintendent or his/her designee.~~

~~2.—For student groups having received such permission, the Superintendent or his/her designee shall assign a reasonable number of rooms, on a first come/first served basis, for the purpose of complying with this policy while ensuring adequate maintenance of the building.~~

~~3.—Except as provided herein, the Board shall generally maintain its program of sponsored activities at no cost to participating students. Students may be required to provide supplies in accordance with Board Policy No. 2520 on instructional supplies and to assume all or part of any costs related to travel and attendance at events associated with the activities of sponsored student groups. Except as provided herein, no student shall be denied participation in a school sponsored organization based on the student's inability to pay.~~

~~4.—All student groups, whether sponsored or non-sponsored, shall have equal access to any method of intra-school communication afforded any other student group. Such modes of communication may be used only for advertising the time and location of meetings, programs, or activities, or for describing the group's organizational purposes.~~

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~~All student activities shall be approved annually by the Board prior to the start of the school year upon recommendation of the Superintendent. The Superintendent shall bring sponsored activities initiated during the course of the school year before the Board for approval on a case-by-case basis and shall report monthly the formation of new non-sponsored groups.~~

~~The Superintendent is directed to draft regulations governing the procedures to be followed by groups of students wishing to meet under this policy.~~

~~39 U.S.C.A. 1701 et seq.
N.J.S.A. 18A:11-3; 18A:42-2; 18A:42-5~~

~~Cross References: _____ 5830, 7510~~

~~Initial Adoption: _____ February 4, 2002~~

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~~Latest Adoption: _____ February 4, 2002~~