

# POLICY

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2430 CO-CURRICULAR AND ATHLETIC 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 more 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.

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 include athletic competitions and practices. Co-curricular activities must be related to the curriculum but are not offered for credit toward promotion or graduation and are ordinarily conducted wholly or partly outside the regular school day.

The Board expressly declines to create a limited open forum for activities initiated by students. Accordingly, a group of students who wish to meet on school premises shall apply to the building principal for permission to meet and must demonstrate to the Principal the relationship of their meeting to the curriculum. The Principal shall permit only those meetings that relate specifically to the curriculum.



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

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.

Except that where eligibility requirements specific to an organization are necessary or desirable, the Board shall be so informed and must approve the establishment of such eligibility standards before they may be operable.

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

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. Failed to maintain a grade point average of 2.0; or
3. Failed more than one course required for promotion or graduation in the preceding marking period.

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.



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No student who has been absent for a school day may participate in a co-curricular activity scheduled for the afternoon or evening of that school day.

The Board will accept students who reside in this district and who are not enrolled in the public school to participate in noncompetitive co-curricular activities on a space-available basis. Participants will be permitted only on written application and the applicant's assurances that the student agrees to be bound by the policies, rules, and regulations of this district.

The Superintendent shall prepare procedures to implement a co-curricular program and shall assess the needs and interests of the students of this district and provide for the continuing evaluation of the co-curricular program.

## Athletic Activities

The Board of Education recognizes the value of a program of athletic competition for both boys and girls as an integral part of the total school experience. Game activities and practice sessions provide opportunities to learn the values of competition and good sportsmanship. Programs of athletic competition, both intrascholastic and interscholastic, offer students the opportunity to exercise and test their athletic abilities in a context greater and more varied than that offered by the class or school or school district alone, and an opportunity for career and educational development.

For purposes of this policy, the program of athletic competition includes all activities relating to competitive sports contests, games, or events or sports exhibitions involving individual students or teams of students of this district when such events occur within or between separate schools within this district or with any schools outside this district.



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All students who desire to participate in competitive athletics and co-curricular activities shall demonstrate satisfactory minimum progress in meeting the requirements of graduation. These students will be required to subscribe to the prescribed course of study and meet the standards of proficiency established by the District. All students must maintain appropriate conduct in order to participate in competitive athletics and co-curricular activities. Students participating in such activities must remember that education is the primary goal of Paterson Public Schools. Participation in competitive athletics and co-curricular activities is a privilege, not a right. The privilege to participate in such activities may be revoked at the discretion of the Superintendent or his designee.

To the extent possible under budgetary and personnel restrictions, the District will make available tutoring services to assist all students who are at risk of failing or who cannot maintain the required academic standards for participation in co-curricular and athletic activities.

## Eligibility Standards

A student who wishes to participate in athletic competition must submit, on a form provided by the district, the signed consent of his/her parent(s) or legal guardian(s). The consent of the parent(s) or legal guardian(s) of a student who wishes to participate in interscholastic athletics must include an acknowledgment of the physical hazards that may be encountered in the sport.

Student participation in athletic competition shall be governed by the following eligibility standards:

1. To be eligible for participation in the interscholastic athletic program of a New Jersey State Interscholastic Athletic Association (NJSIAA) member school all high



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school students must meet, at a minimum, all the eligibility requirements of the Constitution, Bylaws, and Rules and Regulations of the NJSIAA.

A student in grades 8 through 12 is eligible for participation in school-sponsored competitive athletic programs through one of the district's comprehensive high schools if he/she meets applicable age requirements and has passed all courses required for promotion or graduation in the preceding marking period.

The district's comprehensive high schools are Eastside High School and John F. Kennedy High School, both of which are recognized by the NJSIAA. Students who attend any other district high school may opt to participate in a competitive athletic program through one of the district's comprehensive high schools; once a selection is made, the student will join the comprehensive school's athletic program. Students may not participate in the athletic program of more than one comprehensive high school at a time.

Students enrolled in Paterson charter schools are eligible to participate in the district's high school interscholastic athletic program only if the student's charter school does not have an athletic team and complies with the Guidelines, Constitution, Bylaws, Rules and Regulations of NJSIAA, and the policies and regulations of the Board of Education.

Home schooled children are eligible to participate in the high school interscholastic athletic program of this district only if the school district, the parent/guardian, and the home-schooled child comply with the Guidelines, Constitution, Bylaws, Rules and Regulations of NJSIAA, and the policies and regulations of the Board of Education.



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A student must maintain a 2.0 cumulative grade point average.

2. A student in grades 6 through 8 is eligible for participation in the district's athletic/sports program if he/she passed all courses required for promotion or graduation in the preceding year, inclusive of physical education.

Home schooled children in grades 6 through 8 are eligible to participate in the school sponsored athletic/sports program of this district.

3. A student in any grade must maintain a satisfactory record of attendance to be eligible for participation in the school district sponsored athletic/sports program. An attendance record is unsatisfactory if the number of unexcused absences exceeds 21 school days in the school year prior to the student commencing participation in the school district sponsored athletic/sports program.

A student who is absent with an unexcused absence for a school day may not participate in the school district-sponsored athletic/sports program the afternoon or evening of that school day.

A student who is serving an in-school or out-of-school suspension may not participate in the school district sponsored athletic/sports program while serving the suspension.

4. A student in any grade who fails to observe school rules for student conduct may forfeit his/her eligibility for participation in school district sponsored athletic/sports program.



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Notice of these eligibility requirements shall be given to students.

A. Elementary Grades Only:

A student in any grade must maintain a satisfactory record of attendance to be eligible for participation in sports. An attendance record is unsatisfactory if absences exceed more than two (2) unexcused absences per month. No student who has been absent for a school day may participate in an athletic competition scheduled for the afternoon or evening of that school day.

1. A student must maintain a grade point average (GPA) of at least 2.10 to be eligible to participate in organized athletic activities or competition.
2. A student in any grade who fails to demonstrate good citizenship or observe school rules for student conduct may forfeit his/her eligibility for participation in athletic competition.
3. Notice of these eligibility requirements shall be given to students.

B. Secondary Grades Only:

1. To be eligible for participation in any competitive athletic or co-curricular activity, students entering the 9<sup>th</sup> grade must have been regularly promoted from the 8<sup>th</sup> grade. A regularly promoted student entering the 9<sup>th</sup> grade will automatically be eligible for the first quarter of the school year. To maintain eligibility thereafter, a freshman student must maintain a 2.10 or above cumulative GPA. Eligibility is determined at the close of each quarterly marking period.



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2. A student in grades 10, 11, or 12 who in the previous school year earned twenty-five percent of the total number of credits required by the district (31.25 credits) for graduation is eligible for participation in sports in the fall and winter seasons. A student in twelve and one-half percent of the total number of credits required by the district (15.6325 credits) for graduation is eligible for participation in sports in the spring season. A student who is eligible at the start of a sports season remains eligible for that entire season regardless of his/her grades at the end of a marking period.
  - a. A student must have at least a 2.25 cumulative grade point average in 10<sup>th</sup> grade, 2.37 in 11<sup>th</sup> grade, and 2.5 in 12<sup>th</sup> grade to be eligible.
  - b. The student must achieve an increase of at least .13 in GPA each year of participation in order to remain eligible.

C. Students on Academic Probation

1. When a student fails to meet the above criteria, quarterly progress reports and/or report cards will be shared by guidance counselors with athletic directors who will notify the appropriate coaches, sponsors, directors and students participating in competitive co-curricular activities. Students at risk of failing a subject or who do not maintain the required academic standards will be placed on Academic Probation. Only one Academic Probation period will be granted during an academic school year. Written notice of potential ineligibility to participate in co-curricular activities will be provided to the student and his/her parent/guardian promptly. Records of progress shall be maintained by a student's guidance counselor and the





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athletic director, and shall be accessible to the student's teachers, principal and superintendent, and the co-curricular activities teaching advisor.

2. During Academic Probation, the student will be required to submit a completed weekly progress report to his/her teacher(s). The weekly progress report will be shared with the guidance counselor, athletic director, coach and/or sponsor. In order to remain eligible, the student must demonstrate that satisfactory effort is being exerted in all courses and that all assignments for the week have been completed and is passing class assessments. In addition, the student and his/her parent or guardian will be required to meet with the building principal and each teacher of the course in which the student is in danger of failing to develop an individual action plan as to how the student will attempt to meet all course requirements.
3. Each student who is on probation is encouraged to utilize the tutoring services.

## Health Requirements

Good physical condition, freedom from injury, and full recovery from illness are prerequisites to participation in school district sponsored athletic/sports program and practice for such competition. HIV status shall not be screened as a part of athletic physicals or reported in school health records.

The district will create and maintain an athletic department medical file for each student athlete who participates in a competitive athletic program through one of the comprehensive high schools. School health services personnel and athletic department health providers are responsible for record maintenance and custody. The purpose of this file is to ensure that the athletic department of each comprehensive high school has up-to-date



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information necessary to address emergent health concerns for their student athletes.

An examination of each candidate for a school athletic squad or team shall be conducted within 365 days prior to the first practice session with examinations being conducted at the medical home of the student. The "medical home" is defined as a health care provider and that provider's practice site chosen by the student's parent(s) or legal guardian(s) for the provision of health care. Since the school physician is a "health care provider", the parent(s) or legal guardian(s) may chose either the school physician or their own private physician to provide the medical examination. The results of the physical examination must be reported to the building nurse prior to the first practice.

The medical examination shall be conducted in accordance with N.J.S.A 6A:16-2.2(h)1 and 2 and Regulation 2431.2. The medical report shall include a determination concerning the student's participation on an athletic team or squad from the examining physician, nurse practitioner/clinical nurse specialist, or physician's assistant. The medical report shall be provided to the school physician if the school physician did not provide the medical examination.

If the student's medical examination was completed more than sixty days prior to the first practice session, the student must provide a health history update of medical problems experienced since the last medical examination in accordance with N.J.A.C. 6A:16-2.2(h)4. This health history must be completed and signed by the parent(s) or legal guardian(s).

The school district will provide written notification to the parent(s) or legal guardian(s), signed by the school physician, stating approval of the student's participation in the athletics, based solely on the medical report, or the written reasons for the school physician's disapproval of the student's participation. The school physician's signature on the notification indicates the



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medical report complies with the requirements of N.J.A.C. 6A:16-2.2(h)5.

The health findings of this medical examination shall be maintained as part of the student's health record.

The medical examination conducted to determine the fitness of a candidate for athletic competition and the health history update must include, as a minimum, the respective medical history information and physical assessments set forth in rules of the State Board of Education and incorporated in their entirety in regulations implementing this policy.

Students must submit to random steroid testing in compliance with state regulations.

In addition, the Board requires the medical examination include concussions.

## Emergency Procedures

Athletic coaches shall be trained in first aid, cardiopulmonary resuscitation, and in the identification of student athletes who are injured or disabled in the course of any athletic activity.

The Superintendent shall prepare and present to the Board for its approval procedures for the emergency treatment of injuries and disabilities that occur in the course of any athletic activity. Emergency procedures shall be reviewed by the Board not less than once in each school year and shall be disseminated to appropriate staff members.

## Interscholastic Standards

The Board adopts the Constitution, Bylaws, Rules, and Regulations of the New Jersey State Interscholastic Athletic



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Association as Board policy and shall review such rules on a regular basis to ascertain they continue to be in conformity with the objectives of this Board.

The Superintendent shall annually prepare, approve, and present to the Board for its consideration a program of interscholastic athletics that includes a complete schedule of athletic events and shall inform the Board of changes in that schedule.

N.J.S.A. 2C:21-11

N.J.S.A. 18A:11-3 et seq.

N.J.A.C. 6A:7-1.7; 6A:16-1.4; 6A:16-2 et seq.

Cross reference: Policy Guide No. 5842

Cross reference: Policy Guides Nos. 2425, 5310, 5450, 6630, 8441

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