WEST Elizabeth
JEFFERSON Hills
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SCHOOL DISTRICT

ADMINISTRATION BUILDING
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POLICY 122 -- CO-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

1. Purpose

A good student activities program is a necessary facet of the total educational program. The district aims to provide its students with a co-curricular activities program that is attractive, meaningful, and worthwhile. A well-planned program will enrich the curriculum, provide new learning experiences, and improve morale and discipline. All student activities programs must function within the framework of district policies and school rules and regulations.

2. Definition

For purposes of this policy, "co-curricular activities" shall be those activities which are sponsored or approved by the Board but are not offered for credit toward graduation. Such activities shall ordinarily be conducted wholly or partly outside the regular school day; marked by student participation in the processes of initiation, planning, organizing, and execution; and available to all students who voluntarily elect to participate.

Co-curricular activities shall ordinarily include intramural sports, band, chorus, and clubs.

3. Authority

The Board shall make school facilities, supplies, and equipment available and shall assign staff members for the support of a program of co-curricular activities for students. Such availability and assignment shall be in accordance with the Equal Access Act.

Equal Access Act

The district shall provide secondary students the opportunity for one or more non-curriculum 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 the 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. 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 Superintendent or his/her designee shall establish the length of sessions, number per week, and other such limitations as felt reasonably necessary.

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 the attendance of students at such meetings is on a voluntary basis.

4. Responsibility

The primary responsibilities of the activity sponsors are to provide guidance in the planning of activities and projects, attend meetings and events, promote fiscal responsibility, and ascertain that the activity group functions within the framework of district policies and school rules and regulations.

The Activities Director will provide assistance to all activity groups in planning and scheduling events.

5. Guidelines

A. Scheduling

All activities not meeting during the regular school day must be scheduled with and approved by the Activities Director.

The following shall be used as guidelines when scheduling activities.

Evening Activities -- Fridays are preferred. Unless impossible to schedule otherwise, weekdays and Saturdays should be avoided. Activities must never be scheduled on Sundays.

After-School Activities -- Preferred days are Monday through Thursday.
A monthly activities calendar will be prepared by the Activities Director.

B. Participation

Students who are absent from school are not permitted to participate in after-school or evening activities.

Jaguars Virtual Academy students or out-of-district cyber or charter school students who are absent from their respective schools are not permitted to participate in after-school or evening activities.

Students must be in attendance by the end of Period 4 to be eligible for participation in rehearsals, club meetings, musical and theatrical productions, or any school-sponsored activity scheduled after the regular school day ends.

Jaguars Virtual Academy students or students in out-of-district cyber or charter schools must be in attendance by 11:00 AM to be eligible for participation in rehearsals, club meetings, musical and theatrical productions, or any school-sponsored activity scheduled after the regular school day ends.

The individual student is obligated to comply with the academic and conduct procedures set by the district.

College appointments and emergency situations may be excepted if prior approval is obtained from an administrator.

C. Student Travel

All co-curricular journeys which take students 50 miles or more from the district and/or are planned to keep students out of the district overnight or longer and/or require students to miss regular instructional time must be approved by the School Board. Local co-curricular trips must be approved by the Principal and Superintendent.

D. Hazing

Hazing activities which are humiliating and/or detrimental to the health or welfare of a student are not permitted under any circumstances by a school-sponsored activity group including performing groups.

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