Instruction

Teaching About Religions

The School District's curriculum may include the study of religions as they relate to geography, history, culture, and the development of various ethnic groups. The study of religions shall give neither preferential nor derogatory treatment to any single religion, religious belief, or to religion in general. The study of religions shall be treated as an academic subject with no emphasis on the advancement or practice of religion.

LEGAL REF.: Mahmoud v. Taylor, 606 U.S. 522 (2025).
Allegheny County v. ACLU Pittsburgh Chapter, 492 U.S. 573 (1989).
School Dist. of Abington Twp v. Schempp, 374 U.S. 203 (1963).

CROSS REF.: 6:20 (School Year Calendar and Day), 6:40 (Curriculum Development), 6:60 (Curriculum Content), 6:255 (Assemblies and Ceremonies)

Instruction

Teaching About Controversial Issues

The Superintendent shall ensure that all school-sponsored presentations and discussions of controversial or sensitive topics in the instructional program, including those made by guest speakers, are:

Age-appropriate. Proper decorum, considering the students' ages, should be followed.
Consistent with the curriculum and serve an educational purpose.
Informative and present a balanced view.
Respectful of the rights and opinions of everyone. Emotional criticisms and hurtful sarcasm should be avoided.
Not tolerant of profanity or slander.

The District specifically reserves its right to stop any school-sponsored activity that it determines violates this policy, is harmful to the District or the students, or violates State or federal law.

LEGAL REF.: Mahmoud v. Taylor, 606 U.S. 522 (2025).
Garcetti v. Ceballos, 547 U.S. 410 (2006).
Mayer v. Monroe Cnty. Cmty. Sch. Corp., 474 F.3d 477 (7th Cir. 2007).

CROSS REF.: 6:40 (Curriculum Development), 6:255 (Assemblies and Ceremonies), 6:260 (Complaints About Curriculum, Instructional Materials, and Programs)

Instruction

Extracurricular and Co-Curricular Activities

The Superintendent must approve an activity in order for it to be considered a District-sponsored extracurricular or co-curricular activity, using the following criteria:

1. The activity will contribute to the leadership abilities, social well-being, self-realization, good citizenship, or general growth of student-participants.
2. Fees assessed for students are reasonable and do not exceed the actual cost of operation.
3. The District has sufficient financial resources for the activity.
4. Requests from students.
5. The activity will be supervised by a school-approved sponsor.

Noncurriculum related student groups or clubs that are not school sponsored are governed by Board policy 7:330, *Student Use of Buildings - Equal Access*.

Academic Criteria for Participation

Students must satisfy all academic standards and must comply with the activity's rules and the Student Conduct Code.

For students in kindergarten through 8th grade, selection of members or participants is at the discretion of the teachers, sponsors, or coaches, provided that the selection criteria conform to the District's policies.

For high school students, selection of members or participants is at the discretion of the teachers, sponsors, or coaches, provided that the selection criteria conform to the District's policies. Participation in co-curricular activities is dependent upon course selection and successful progress in those courses. In order to be eligible to participate in any school-sponsored or school-supported athletic or extracurricular activity, a student must maintain an overall ___ grade point average. Any student-participant failing to meet these academic criteria shall be suspended from the activity for ___ calendar days or until the specified academic criteria are met, whichever is longer.

LEGAL REF.: 105 ILCS 5/10-20.30 and 5/24-24.

CROSS REF.: 4:170 (Safety), 7:10 (Equal Educational Opportunities), 7:40 (Nonpublic School Students, Including Parochial and Home-Schooled Students), 7:240 (Conduct Code for Participants in Extracurricular Activities), 7:300 (Extracurricular Athletics), 7:330 (Student Use of Buildings - Equal Access), 8:20 (Community Use of School Facilities)