

## Community Relations

### Contests for Students

Contests and competitions for the students may be considered for approval by the Superintendent on recommendation of the building administration. The following criteria are to be considered in determining whether or not approval may be given:

1. The contest is educationally sound and worthy.
2. The contest is stimulating to the student and school and desirable for both.
3. The contest must not place an undue burden on the students, families, teachers, and the school.
4. The contest is not commercial or sectarian.
5. The contest will not take students from school unnecessarily.
6. Participation from state and national principal groups are considered.
7. For secondary school contests, from the list of approved contests published by the Connecticut Association of Schools.

**Policy Adopted: July 7, 1993**

**Policy Revised: December 6, 2017**

BRISTOL PUBLIS SCHOOLS

Bristol, Connecticut

## Regulation

### Elementary Level: K-6

Within the public school setting, competitions in expressive areas such as art and creative writing are of questionable value. Art, poster, coloring, and writing contests should be avoided at the elementary level.

Art, writing, and other non-athletic competitions differ from sports contests in that the entrants may not understand the aesthetic or other criteria by which they win or lose. Judging, unlike refereeing a sports event, is often done beyond the observation of the entrant and is often subjective. Winners may not know why they win and losers may not understand why they lose.

These contests may foster atmospheres of competition, which recognize only the very few talented and skilled students, and make "losers" of all those remaining. A sense of failure is therefore implanted into the program and creative growth is inhibited. In art contests, technical rendering may be valued above the child's spontaneous and uninhibited creative expression.

Contests in art and other expressive areas are, therefore, most often inappropriate activities at the elementary level as they do not promote personal expression or creative growth.

It is recognized, however, that school administrators and teachers are willing to cooperate with out-of-school agencies and organizations of a community spirited nature. When organizations suggest elementary level art, poster, coloring, writing, or other contests in an expressive area, school personnel should discuss with them alternative ways of achieving the same educational or community service objective through more positive learning activities. Organizations requesting elementary school children participation in such contests will complete the Student Contest Approval Form.

To obtain approval for students to take part in local art and writing contests, the teacher or administrator contest supervisor, or the sponsoring agency, will submit a completed Student Contest Approval Request Form.

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supervisor, or the sponsoring agency, will submit a completed Student Contest Approval Request form. Forms approved at the principal-supervisor level will be forwarded to the Superintendent of Schools or his/her designee.

### **Secondary Level: 7-12**

At the secondary level contests still are of questionable value but for students who want to test their abilities against a professional world, against adult standards and aesthetic criteria, or against the abilities of their peers with a clear understanding of the rules and of the possibility of not winning, contests may have a different purpose in the growth of the individual than is found at the primary and elementary grades.

The school administration shall be guided by the annual and periodic recommendations of the Connecticut Association of Secondary Schools, Inc. (CASS) in determining whether students in grades 7 through 12 shall participate in state and national contests. Contests not on the CASS listing are prohibited unless they are approved upon individual request by the CASS Student Activities Board of Control. To obtain approval for students to take part in local contests (over which CASS does not exercise jurisdiction or review), the teacher or will administrator contest supervisor will submit to the immediate supervisor a completed Student Contest Approval Request form. Forms approved at the principal-supervisor level will be forwarded to the Superintendent of Schools or his/her designee.

Contests held on an annual or periodic basis require initial administrative approval only, unless substantial changes in rules, purposes, or use of school time occur.

### **General**

When a contest is approved, announcements shall be posted to give all students who qualify as entrants the opportunity to participate. Student and teacher participation in approved contests shall always be on a volunteer basis. No student shall be required to take part in a contest sponsored by an out-of-school organization as part of their courses or grades. With a student's permission, teachers may submit poetic, literary, industrial arts, music, and art projects which have been graded to approved contests, such as the Scholastic Writing and Art Award Programs.

### **Contest Approval: K-12**

Final approval of contests will be based upon consideration of the following criteria:

1. The primary educational aims of the schools and the needs and interest of the students must be a consideration at all times.
2. Schools shall not be used to promote private or commercial interests.
3. The criteria for judging must be presented clearly.
4. The awards should be consistent with the goals of the contest.
5. The amount of school time devoted to the contest should not cause it to interfere with the regular program of instruction.

**Regulation approved: July 7, 1993**