

Instruction

Extracurricular and Co-Curricular Activities¹

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 students are reasonable and do not exceed the actual cost of operation.²
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.

Non-school sponsored student groups are governed by School Board policy, 7:330, *Student Use of Buildings - Equal Access*.³

Academic Criteria for Participation

For students in kindergarten through 8th grade,⁴ 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. Students must satisfy all academic standards and must comply with the activity's rules and the student conduct code.

The footnotes are not intended to be part of the adopted policy; they should be removed before the policy is adopted.

¹ Each school board in a district that maintains any of grades 9-12 must have a *no pass-no play* policy. 105 ILCS 5/10-20.30. State or federal law controls some aspects of this policy's content. The criteria for determining whether to sponsor a specific activity is a local board decision, except that an ISBE rule requires that: (1) programs for extra classroom activities provide opportunities for all students; (2) the desires of the student body be considered; and (3) co-curricular activities be carefully supervised by a school-approved sponsor. 23 Ill. Admin. Code §1.420(j).

As State law does not define extracurricular or co-curricular, a board may desire to explain these terms in the policy, such as by including the following option at the beginning of the policy:

Extracurricular or co-curricular activities are school-sponsored programs for which some or all of the activities are outside the instructional day. They do not include field trips, homework, or occasional work required outside the school day for a scheduled class. *Co-curricular activity* refers to an activity associated with the curriculum in a regular classroom and is generally required for class credit. *Extracurricular activity* refers to an activity that is not part of the curriculum, is not graded, does not offer credit, and does not take place during classroom time; it includes competitive interscholastic activities and clubs.

In January 2013, the U.S. Dept. of Education, Office for Civil Rights, issued a *Dear Colleague Letter* concerning the participation of students with disabilities in extracurricular athletic activities. It clarifies the types of accommodations and services that districts must provide pursuant to Section 504. See www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/letters/colleague-201301-504.html.

² Optional. Assessing fees that are reasonable and do not exceed the actual cost of operation is a best practice that aligns with School Code provisions seeking to minimize cost barriers to students and parents/guardians. See 105 ILCS 5/2-3.71a(d), 5/10-22.18b, and 5/10-22.18d.

³ *Non-curriculum related* extracurricular activities that meet during non-instruction time in secondary schools trigger the Equal Access Act (EAA) (20 U.S.C. §4071 *et seq.*). The EAA prohibits the school from denying fair opportunity or *equal access* to any students who wish to conduct a meeting within a limited open forum on the basis of the religious, political, philosophical, or other content of the speech at such a meeting. The U.S. Supreme Court interpreted "non-curriculum related student group" as any student group that does not directly relate to the body of courses offered by the school. *Bd. of Ed. of Westside Community Sch. Dist. v. Mergens*, 496 U.S. 226 (1990).

⁴ High school districts should omit this paragraph.

For high school students,⁵ 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.⁶ 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.⁷

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)

The footnotes are not intended to be part of the adopted policy; they should be removed before the policy is adopted.

⁵ Elementary districts should omit this paragraph.

⁶ Each board in a district that maintains any of grades 9-12 must have a *no pass-no play* policy. 105 ILCS 5/10-20.30. The policy must specify a minimum grade point average (left blank in the sample policy) AND/OR a minimum grade in each course, such as *passing* (see alternatives below). The policy must provide a suspension period – stated in sample policy as “___ calendar days or until the specified academic criteria are met, whichever is longer.” The procedure for implementing this policy is an administrative, management function. Alternatives follow:

Alternative 1: ...a student must maintain an overall ___ grade point average and a passing grade [or minimum grade of ___] in each course the student is enrolled.

Alternative 2: ...a student must maintain a passing grade [or minimum grade of ___] in each course the student is enrolled.

Alternative 3: ...a student must satisfy the Illinois High School Association's scholastic standing requirements [doing passing work in at least 25 credit hours of high school work per week].

⁷ Alternatives include:

Alternative 1: ...shall be suspended from the activity for ___ calendar days. [*Delete the rest of the sentence.*]

Alternative 2: ...shall be suspended from the activity until the specified academic criteria are met.