

Instruction

Extracurricular and Co-Curricular Activities ¹

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. 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.

~~School-Sponsored-Noncurriculum related~~ student groups or clubs that are not school sponsored are governed by Board policy 7:330, *Student Use of Buildings - Equal Access*. ³

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, available at:

https://downloads.microsibepub.com/il/press/federal_resources/Dear_Colleague_1_25_2013_504_proc.pdf.

Note: This resource may no longer be available on a federal government website but is being maintained at PRESS Online to provide consistent subscriber access. It clarifies the types of accommodations and services that districts must provide pursuant to Section 504.

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 5/10-22.18b and 5/10-22.18d.

³ *Noncurriculum related student groups* that meet during noninstructional 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 "noncurriculum related student group" as any student group that does not directly relate to the body

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,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.

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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

of courses offered by the school. Bd. of Ed. of Westside Community Sch. Dist. v. Mergens, 496 U.S. 226 (1990). See also discussion in f/n 1 in sample policy 7:330, Student Use of Buildings - Equal Access.

4 High school districts should omit this paragraph.

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.

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)