

The Extracurricular Activities Program

1. General Purpose

a. The extracurricular program includes noncurricular activities which are sponsored by the school district. The activities include sports, speech, plays, Future Farmers of America, Future Business Leaders of America, music performance groups and other activities which are sponsored by the Hitchcock County Schools.

b. Extracurricular activities are an important of the total school experience, but are secondary to the academic program and must be kept in that perspective.

c. Extracurricular activities **do not** include:

i. co-curricular activities such as band and choir, in which students must participate as part of the requirements for enrollment in and receiving a grade for a particular course.

ii. student-initiated, non-curriculum related student groups which are permitted to hold meetings and events on school premises. These groups are not school-sponsored and are not governed by this policy or other policies and rules governing extracurricular groups.

2. Governance

a. All extracurricular activities shall be under the exclusive governance and control of the school district. This control includes, but is not to be limited to, the formation, naming, structure, operation, financing, and discontinuance of all extracurricular activities. Extracurricular activities shall not have any separate or individual existence, status, rights, or authority.

b. Students and sponsors will be governed by all board's policies and administrative rules including the policy on field trips when traveling for extracurricular activities.

3. Student Eligibility

a. Students are encouraged to participate in extracurricular activities. Participation shall be open to and limited to all students who are currently enrolled in the school district on a voluntary basis.

b. Extracurricular activities may establish academic or course enrollment qualifications for participation if such qualifications are necessarily related to the purposes of the activity.

- c. Standards for scholastic eligibility for students wishing to participate in extracurricular activities shall be set by the administration and shall be consistent with at least the minimum standards provided by the NSAA.
- d. All students in grades 7-12 who participate in athletics must have a physical examination by a qualified health care provider at the student's expense.
- e. Students who wish to participate in extracurricular activities must abide by the student code of conduct, the extracurricular code of conduct and any additional rules set by the activity sponsor.
- f. Students are not eligible to participate in any extracurricular activity until they and their parents/guardians have signed the student handbook and extracurricular handbook receipt and acknowledgement.

4. Sponsors

- a. Each extracurricular activity must have a sponsor who is a member of the district's certificated staff or a selected community volunteer who is qualified by virtue of education, training, experience, or special interest to serve as the sponsor.
- b. The superintendent or his/her designee will assign activity sponsors. Payment to sponsors will be negotiated with the sponsor based on the terms of any applicable collective bargaining agreement, the sponsor's training and experience and any other lawful criteria. Sponsors serve in their capacity as a sponsor at the will of the superintendent, who is specifically empowered to remove an activity sponsor in the superintendent's sole discretion.
- c. Sponsors shall be required to: develop materials, activities, and a budget; promote membership and participation; communicate with the principal or designee, staff, students, and parents; schedule meeting dates and locations; plan meaningful experiences; supervise students during activities; evaluate and make recommendations; and submit a year end report to the principal or designee.

5. Money-Raising Activities

All money-raising activities shall require authorization by a member of the school district administration and shall be subject to all other school policies. All money raised by these activities shall be governed by Policy 3005.

Hitchcock County Schools #44-0070
Adopted on: January 11, 2016