

Procedure © 5-213.A District-Sponsored Activities - Requirements Relating to Participation and Accommodations

A. Definitions

"Academic contests fund" means the fund established by the Arizona State Board of Education in accordance with [A.R.S. § 15-1241](#).

"Extracurricular activity" means an activity that:

1. Is not integral to or required to receive credit for graduation or promotion, and
2. Is organized, planned, and sponsored by the District consistent with District policies.

"Contest advisor" means an employee of the District with responsibility for student participation in an academic contest.

"Interscholastic extracurricular activity" means an extracurricular activity that is of a competitive nature involving more than one school where a championship, winner, or rating is determined. All references herein to extracurricular activities include interscholastic extracurricular activities and interscholastic athletic activities.

"Interscholastic athletic activity" means an interscholastic extracurricular activity consisting of a sport or other athletic competition.

"Faculty sponsor" means an employee of the district who is charged with supervising and leading students in an interscholastic extracurricular activity.

"Progress report" means a report submitted by a student's teacher to the school principal every 4.5 weeks that includes the student's cumulative grade for the current grade period.

"Fiscal agent" means the Business Office.

B. Cultural Accommodations

Extracurricular activities shall be open to all eligible students. District personnel organizing extracurricular activities should ensure that rules related to the extracurricular activity do not interfere with the cultural traditions, including religious traditions, of potential participants. If rules related to an extracurricular activity would prohibit a student from participating because of the student's cultural traditions, the faculty sponsor shall implement alternative rules, schedules, or other aspects of the activity if doing so would not: (a) alter the fundamental purposes of the extracurricular activity; or (b) affect the health and safety of participants.

If an extracurricular activity's rules or schedule are governed by an outside association, the faculty sponsors of the extracurricular activity shall, in consultation with the affected student or students and their parent/legal guardian, take reasonable steps to request and obtain accommodations allowing students to participate.

Extracurricular activities shall not require a student to remove a religious or cultural accessory or hairpiece if the accessory or hairpiece does not jeopardize the health or safety of the student or other participants in the activity, as determined by the supervisor or officiant of the activity.

Examples of accommodations may include, but are not limited to, modifications to uniforms, jerseys, or other clothing associated with the activity or rearranging schedules to avoid conflicts with religious or cultural observances.

C. Academic Contests

All travel and expenditures related to academic contests that are eligible for funding from the state academic contests fund must first be approved by the Board.

The fiscal agent is designated as an authorized representative of the District and is responsible for the disbursement of travel funds.

All requests for funds from the state academic contests fund should be directed to the fiscal agent. Before submitting requests for funding for academic contests, the contest advisor should first ensure that the contest is on the Arizona State Board of Education's list of approved contests and:

1. The contest is academic in nature and motivates students to be creative and to demonstrate excellence.
2. The contest is sponsored by a recognized national organization
3. The contest is open to all students, regardless of race, creed, gender or national origin, except that a contest may separate pupils by age or grade level.
4. No other sponsoring agency is assuming the total costs.
5. The participation of the students shall be the result of successfully competing at the local or state level, or both, of that contest.

After Board approval of participation in an academic contest, the Business Office shall apply to the Arizona State Board of Education for funding.

Not more than thirty (30) to the fiscal agent. Not more than ninety (90) days after the academic contest, the fiscal agent will verify the accuracy of the completion report and submit the completion report, together with any unused funds, to the Arizona Department of Education.

D. Interscholastic Extracurricular Activities

Students participating in any interscholastic extracurricular activity must meet both of the following criteria:

1. The student has a passing grade as defined in District procedures as evidenced by either:
 - a. Performance in each course in which the student is currently enrolled, if available; or
 - b. If current grades are not available, in each course which the student was enrolled in the previous semester or quarter.
2. The student is maintaining satisfactory progress toward promotion or graduation as defined in District procedures.

If a student does not meet the above criteria, the student shall be ineligible to participate in the activities until the criteria above are met.

Teachers shall regularly assess students' progress toward earning a passing grade. The principal and/or their designee, upon determining that a student is at risk for losing eligibility to participate in interscholastic extracurricular activities, shall immediately notify the student and the student's parent/legal guardian of pending ineligibility. Such notice shall be confidential and may be verbal or in writing. The principal and/or their designee shall also notify the faculty sponsor for all interscholastic extracurricular activities in which the student participates. The principal and/or their designee then discuss appropriate educational support services that they may offer to encourage maintaining eligibility.

If, based on a student's most recent progress report, the principal determines that a student is

ineligible to participate in the activities, the principal shall notify the ineligible student, the student's parent/legal guardian, and the faculty sponsor for all applicable activities, of the student's ineligibility. The student shall receive support services designed to help the student meet eligibility requirements. The student shall remain ineligible until a subsequent check on eligibility is performed and the student meets eligibility requirements.

The teacher and faculty sponsor(s) should continue to provide appropriate educational support services after a determination of ineligibility.

E. Passing Grade

A student shall be deemed to have a passing grade if the student has received a D grade or better in the student's most recent progress report. Passing grades shall be determined on a cumulative basis, from the beginning of instruction to the recording of a final grade for the course.

F. Students with Disabilities

The District shall adhere to the requirements of federal and state laws to provide students with disabilities access to its District-sponsored activities.

G. Homeschooled Students

Except as otherwise noted, children who reside within the attendance area of any school in the District shall be permitted to participate in interscholastic extracurricular activities on the same basis as District students.

Before permitting a homeschooled student to participate in such activities, District personnel shall verify that the student lives within the attendance boundaries of the school, and the individual providing primary instruction for the homeschooled student shall submit written verification of eligibility requirements on the same schedule as District students.

Homeschooled students participating in interscholastic extracurricular activities must meet all applicable participation and eligibility requirements, including:

- payment of the same participation or activity fee(s), if any, paid by District students,
- insurance,
- transportation,
- physical condition,
- qualifications,
- standards of behavior, and
- academic performance policies.

A homeschooled student who was previously enrolled in a public, private, or charter school is ineligible to participate in interscholastic extracurricular activities for the remainder of the school year in which the student was enrolled in a school.

The District shall not contract with any private entity that supervises interscholastic activities if the private entity prohibits the participation of homeschooled students in interscholastic extracurricular activities at public, private or charter schools.

H. Interscholastic Athletic Activities

Policy 5-410 contains additional information regarding interscholastic athletic activities.

Chandler Unified School District
