

EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

A. Generally

Student activities are extracurricular and supplement the regular school curriculum. Student activities are voluntary and do not carry credit toward graduation. They take the form of special interest groups, honor societies, athletic teams and other extensions of classroom work. All extracurricular activities are designed to promote character, building qualities of participation and leadership ability. Extracurricular activities and the eligibility requirements shall be approved by the superintendent or his designee as required by state accreditation standards, Virginia High School League guidelines, or other recognized state and/or national organizations that are affiliated with the activity. All student organizations and activities shall be under the direct supervision of the school principal or a designee and shall supplement the regular program of the school. They should be evaluated periodically to ensure that interruptions of the instructional programs are avoided. Students should not be permitted to engage in such organizations and activities to the detriment of their classroom work.

Categories

Extracurricular activities are divided into four general categories:

1. Interscholastic and intramural athletics.
2. Activities stemming directly from classroom studies. Examples are (but not limited to) career-technical, student government (including graduating classes), band, musical productions, dramatics, debate, the school newspaper and literary publications.
3. Activities designed to promote interest in academic achievement and/or specific subject areas. Examples are the BETA Club and subject matter organizations.
4. Service and special interest clubs.

B. Access to Extracurricular Activities

Access to and participation in extracurricular activities shall be open to all students as provided in state and federal regulations, and school board policy.

C. Supervision

The administration shall appoint qualified members of the faculty, or in the absence of qualified faculty members, may appoint qualified community members as sponsors for each activity. The sponsor shall be responsible for the guidance and general supervision of the activity and shall ensure that all actions conform to school policies and regulations.

D. Financial Support

The school sponsored extracurricular activities named in Section A-1 and A-2 may receive partial financial support. Transportation may be provided, or the cost of transportation may be paid from appropriated funds.

The school sponsored extracurricular activities covered in Sections A-3 and A-4 are to be financially self-supporting. School transportation for these activities, however, may be requested. If it cannot be

provided, then vehicular transportation may be by commercial means, or by private car under regulations established for such use.

E. Permission by School Principal

The actions and activities of each organization must be approved by the school principal.

F. Parental Permission

In each instance when an organization schedules an activity away from school, parents will be notified and written permission obtained when appropriate.

G. Evaluation and Approval

The division superintendent and/or a designee shall periodically evaluate the school sponsored extracurricular activities program to ensure compliance with state and federal regulations, and school board policy.

H. Fraternities and/or Sororities

Fraternities, sororities or any clandestine organization shall not be permitted in the school division. Principals shall inform students that activities associated with such organizations shall be prohibited at school.

I. Initiating a Student Activities Program

At various times students may wish to initiate a student activity/club. If a student wishes to propose an activity that qualifies under sections A-3 and A-4, the following guidelines must be met before Superintendent will make a recommendation to the School Board for final approval or disapproval:

A. A proposal must be submitted that contains the following:

1. Name of the proposed club/activity
2. Description of Club's purpose
3. Description of proposed leadership structure
4. Description of club rules/activities
5. Letter from a qualifying advisor who will agree to supervise the activity
6. A petition from 10% of the student body of the school where the activity is to be proposed.

Proposed activities that qualify under Sections A-1 and A-2 may be proposed by faculty and this proposal must contain the items 1-5 listed above. The school division's Director of Activities will then review the application and approve or disapprove the application within thirty days of submission, stating the reasons why. Individuals may appeal to the principal within five days and if this appeal is not approved, then individuals may appeal to the Superintendent within five days. All clubs, activities, and organizations at the schools as of the date of adoption of this policy shall be exempt from Section I and will be listed with this policy.

J. Deactivation of Recognized Organization

An activity/club will be deemed inactive if the organization has no qualifying advisor and/or does not meet as a group at least once within the last 12 months. In order for the inactive club to become reactivated, student organizers must complete the process outlined in Section I of this policy.

Adopted: January 20, 2011

Legal Reference:

Virginia Board of Education Regulations, Accreditation of Public Schools in Virginia (January 1993)

U.S. Department of Health, Education, and Welfare/Office for Civil Rights, Final Title IX Regulation Implementing Education Amendments of 1972 Prohibiting Sex Discrimination in Education (effective date: July 21, 1975). § 86-41. Athletics. (Effective dates: elementary schools, July 21, 1976; secondary schools, July 21, 1978.)

U.S. Department of Health Education and Welfare/Office of Education, Final Regulation Implementing Amendments to Part B of the Education for All Handicapped Children Act of 1975. See also Federal Register, Vol. 42, No. 163, August 23, 1977. (Effective date: October 1, 1977.) 121a. 306. Nonacademic services.