5.67-EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

The Fayetteville School District will offer curricular and extracurricular activities appropriate for a wide range of student interests and abilities. “Extracurricular activities” are defined as those activities, which take place

• in competition with students from other schools, or
• for an audience of non-school personnel, or
• for a purpose clearly unrelated to regular classroom activities.

Examples of extracurricular activities would include, but not be limited to, Odyssey of the Mind, math and foreign language competitions involving other schools, music performances and contests, interscholastic athletic contests, spirit squads, vocational contest involving other schools, Student Council, school clubs not related to classroom activities.

Participation in such activities will be encouraged by the school district. However, the school district reserves the right to deny participation to any student under the guidelines established in the Procedures section, which follows.

PROCEDURES

Elementary Schools

In general, all activities offered by the school will be open to all students. Eligibility to participate may be revoked, at the discretion of the principal, for any students whose general behavior does not meet acceptable standards.

Secondary Schools

1. Those who do not meet the eligibility standards of the Arkansas Activities Association (in those activities governed by the AAA).

2. Those who do not meet the eligibility standards of the recognized agency governing any particular activity.

3. Those in grades 7-9 who did not meet the district’s promotion standards, as described in Policy No. 5.10, during the previous school year.

4. Those whose general behavior does not meet acceptable standards as determined by the principal.

5. Those who do not meet approved guidelines established by the staff member in charge of a particular activity.

General Guidelines

• All extracurricular activities should be considered an integral part of the school’s total educational program and should be subject to the same evaluative procedures as those applied to curricular activities.

• Seventh graders will be eligible for participation in all junior-high athletic activities except football, basketball, and track. A seventh grader may participate in any of those three sports only when special consideration is given to the physical and emotional maturity of the student and only after consultation among the athletic director, the student’s principal, and the student’s parents; the principal will have the final authority to declare the student eligible and will make “the good of the student” the chief criterion in making the decision.

• Ninth graders will be eligible to participate at the high-school level in any athletic activity not offered in the junior high or at such time that their age makes them ineligible for junior-high athletics.
• The maximum number of competitive activities or performances will be determined by the principal, in consultation with appropriate staff members.

• Extracurricular activities will be scheduled so that participant’s absence from class is minimized.

• In general, practice time should not exceed two hours per day.

• Practice sessions will not be scheduled on Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Day, New Year’s Day, or Sundays. Saturday practices are discouraged.

• Practices will not be held on days school is dismissed for bad weather unless the practice is specifically approved by the principal.

• Interscholastic activities will not be held on days school is dismissed for bad weather unless the activity is specifically approved by the superintendent’s office on the recommendation of the principal.

• Activities should be scheduled to avoid the need for overnight trips. Any overnight stay of a non-emergency nature must be approved in advance by the superintendent’s office. Overnight stays of emergency nature (due to bad weather, mechanical failure, etc.) may be scheduled at the discretion of the staff member in charge of the activity.

Non-instructional Activities

Activities of a non-instructional nature (such as class parties, pep rallies, and assembly programs) will be held only after approval by the building principal. The frequency and duration of such activities will be limited so that interference with the regular instructional program is minimized.

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