

**CRANFORD PUBLIC SCHOOLS
CRANFORD, NEW JERSEY**

POLICY: INTERSCHOLASTIC COMPETITION

The Cranford Board of Education considers all competitive extracurricular activities--academic, artistic and athletic--an integral part of the total educational program. Competitive activities shall be under the same administration and control as the rest of the school program and closely articulated within the program.

Competitive activities can provide pupils with valuable experiences and opportunities. In Cranford, the emphasis in any interscholastic competition shall be on providing such experiences and opportunities rather than on producing winning teams or providing entertainment. Practice for or performance in any competitive event shall not interfere with the regular educational program.

The Board must approve membership in any leagues, associations, and conferences.

The Board shall appoint coaches, advisors, physicians and other necessary supervisory personnel upon recommendation of the chief school administrator. The chief school administrator shall also ensure that training programs/regulations are developed for all extracurricular athletic activities and that all physical facilities involved in any competition in which district schools take part shall be adequate, safe and sanitary.

Public recognition shall be given to participants in academic or artistic competitions in the same measure as to athletic competitors.

Parental Consent

No pupil may participate in a school-sponsored interscholastic program without a signed consent form from a parent/guardian naming the activity and acknowledging that the activity may be hazardous.

Academic Eligibility

Academic standards for eligibility shall be those established by policy 5137 Athletic and Co-Curricular Eligibility.

Attendance Standards

Attendance standards shall be those set in policy 5113 School Attendance - Excused Absences. In particular, a pupil shall not participate in a performance, exhibition, practice or athletic event or other major afternoon or evening activities unless he/she has been present in school for the entire day. Only the principal or assistant principal may grant an exception for a most extraordinary circumstance.

Disciplinary Standards

Disciplinary standards are based on board policies 5114 Suspension and Expulsion and 5131 Student Behavior and Discipline. Pupils on disciplinary probation or serving a detention or suspension may not practice, perform or compete. The chief school administrator and the building principal shall decide at the end of a probation or suspension whether the pupil may return to practice and competition.

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Special Education Pupils

To participate in interscholastic competition, special education pupils must meet the same requirements listed above in conformity with IEPs.

Physical Eligibility

All pupils in grades seven through 12 participating in interscholastic athletics must be given a medical examination within 365 days prior to the first practice session, with a health history. The medical examination shall be given by the district's medical officer. Examinations shall be made available throughout the school year consistent with the district athletic schedule. If requested by the parents/guardians, the medical examination may be given by another licensed physician, but must be reported to the district medical officer or designated team doctor on a form furnished by the district and, as a minimum, include the content adopted by the Board. In the event a private physician is used, the medical examination shall not be at the expense of the Board of Education.

The health findings of the medical examination for participation in athletics shall be made part of the general health examination record.

The medical examination to determine the fitness of a pupil to participate in athletics shall include, as a minimum, the following:

- A. A medical history questionnaire, completed by the parent/guardian of the pupil, to determine if the pupil:
 - 1. Has been medically advised not to participate in any sport, and the reason for such advice;
 - 2. Is under a physician's care and the reasons for such care;
 - 3. Has experienced loss of consciousness after an injury;
 - 4. Has experienced a fracture or dislocation;
 - 5. Has undergone any surgery;
 - 6. Takes any medication on a regular basis, the names of such medication and the reasons for such medication;
 - 7. Has allergies including hives, asthma and reaction to bee stings;
 - 8. Has experienced frequent chest pains or palpitations;
 - 9. Has a recent history of fatigue and undue tiredness;
 - 10. Has a history of fainting with exercise;
 - 11. Has a history of family members dying suddenly.

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B. A physical examination which shall include, as a minimum, no less than:

1. Measurement of weight, height, and blood pressure;
2. Examination of the skin to determine the presence of infection, scars of previous surgery or trauma, jaundice, and purpura;
3. Examination of the eyes to determine visual acuity, use of eyeglasses or contact lenses, and examination of the sclera for the presence of jaundice;
4. Examination of the ears to determine the presence of acute or chronic infection, perforation of the eardrum and gross hearing loss;
5. Examination of the nose to assess the presence of deformity which may affect endurance;
6. Assessment of the neck to determine range of motion and the presence of pain associated with such motion;
7. Examination of chest contour;
8. Auscultation and percussion of the lungs;
9. Assessment of the heart with attention to the presence of murmurs, noting rhythm and rate;
10. Assessment of the abdomen with attention to the possible presence of hepatomegaly, splenomegaly, or abnormal masses;
11. Assessment of the back to determine range of motion and abnormal curvature of the spine;
12. Examination of extremities to determine abnormal mobility or immobility, deformity, instability, muscle weakness or atrophy, surgical scars and varicosities;
13. Examination of the testes to determine the presence and descent of both testes, abnormal masses or configurations, or hernia;
14. Assessment of physiological maturation;
15. Neurological examination to assess balance and coordination and the presence of abnormal reflexes.
16. Urinalysis

Insurance

The Board will cover each participant in interscholastic athletics with insurance coverage as recommended by the current insurance carrier. All other interscholastic activities shall be covered at the recommendation of the insurance advisor and chief school administrator.

Parents/guardians shall be strongly encouraged to participate in the supplemental pupil accident insurance program offered by the Board.

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- Legal References:**
- N.J.S.A. 18A:11-3 Voluntary associations regulating conduct of student activities; membership; rules and regulations; appeals
- N.J.S.A. 18A:26-2.1 et al. Supervisory certificate required for appointment as Director of Athletics
- N.J.S.A. 18A:40A-1 et seq. N.J.S.A. 18A:36-20 Discrimination; prohibition
Substance abuse
- See particularly:
N.J.S.A. 18A:40A-9, -10,
-11
- N.J.S.A. 18A:42-2 School orchestra not to compete with civilian musicians; exceptions
- N.J.S.A. 18A:43-1 Accident insurance for pupils authorized
- N.J.A.C. 6:4-1.3(a), -1.5(f) Policy development
- N.J.A.C. 6:8-4.10 State and Federally mandated programs and services
- N.J.A.C. 6:29-1.1 et seq. Health, safety and physical education
- See particularly:
N.J.A.C. 6:29-1.3(a)1,
-3.3, -3.4
- 20 U.S.C.A. 1681 - Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972
- 29 U.S.C.A. 794 et seq. - Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973
- New Jersey State Board of Education Resolution, May 2, 1984, requires local boards to adopt policy on academic eligibility for extracurricular activities. Must address grade point average, attendance requirements and course failure rate.
- NJSIAA Constitution, Bylaws, Rules and Regulations
- Manual for the Evaluation of Local School Districts (June 1993)
- Multi-year Equity Plan for 1996-97 through 1998-99, SDOE Bureau of Equal Educational Opportunity, Doc. #MISM260040699

Possible

- Cross References:**
- 1322 Contests For Pupils
- 3250 Income From Fees, Fines, Charges
- 3453 School Activity Funds
- 3541.31 Privately Owned Vehicles
- 5113 School Attendance - Excused Absences
- 5114 Suspension And Expulsion
- 5125 Pupil Records
- 5126 Awards For Achievement
- 5131 Student Behavior And Discipline
- 5137 Athletic And Co-Curricular Eligibility
- 5141.1 Accidents
- 5141.3 Health Examinations And Immunizations
- 5145.4 Equal Educational Opportunity
- 6121 Nondiscrimination/Affirmative Action

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- 6142.4 Physical Education And Health
- 6145 Extracurricular Activities
- 6146 Graduation Requirements
- 6147.1 Evaluation Of Individual Student Performance

Adopted: December 13, 1999

Revised: June 13, 2011