

# Policy Guide



Policy No. 123

Section PROGRAMS

Title INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETICS

Adopted AUGUST 21, 1989

Last Revised MARCH 19, 2024

<b>POLICY NO. 123 INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETICS</b>		
<b>Section 1</b>	<p><b><u>Purpose</u></b></p> <p>The Board recognizes the value of a program of interscholastic athletics as an integral part of the total school experience for all district students and as a resource for community involvement.</p>	SC 511
<b>Section 2</b>	<p><b><u>Definition</u></b></p> <p>For purposes of this policy, the program of <b>interscholastic athletics</b> shall include all activities relating to competitive or exhibition sport contests, games or events involving individual students or teams of students when such events occur between schools within the District or outside the District.</p>	
<b>Section 3</b>	<p><b><u>Authority</u></b></p> <p>It shall be the policy of the Board to offer opportunities for participation in interscholastic athletic programs to students on as equal a basis as is practicable and without discrimination, in accordance with law and regulations.</p> <p>The Board shall approve annually, by June 30<sup>th</sup>, a program of interscholastic athletics and shall require that all facilities utilized in that program, whether or not the property of this Board, properly safeguard both players and spectators and are kept free from hazardous conditions.</p> <p>The Board shall maintain the program of interscholastic activities at minimal cost to participating students subject to the following conditions:</p>	<p>SC 1601-C et seq. 22 PA Code 4.27 34 CFR 106.41 Pol. 103, 103.1</p> <p>SC 511</p>

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1. The Board's responsibility for the provision of supplies shall carry the same exemptions as listed in the Board's policy on regular school supplies.
2. Students may be required to assume all or part of the costs for travel and attendance at interscholastic events and trips.
3. The Board reserves the right to limit support for any activities.

Pol 110

The Board shall determine the standards of eligibility to be met by all student's participating in an interscholastic program. Such standards shall require that each student, before participating in any interscholastic activity, be covered by accident insurance; be free of injury; and undergo a physical examination by a licensed physician.

SC 511

The Board further adopts those eligibility standards set by the Constitution of the Pennsylvania Interscholastic Athletic Association, and shall review such standards periodically to ascertain that they continue to be in conformity with the objectives of this District. The Board reserves the right to require a student desiring to participate in the District's interscholastic athletic programs to provide such evidence as may be necessary to establish the student's eligibility under such standards.

The Board believes that participation in interscholastic athletics is an important part of the total educational process; however, participation in interscholastic athletics is a privilege and not a right. Participation shall be contingent upon successful final completion of regular curricular requirements. In order to ensure a student's continued eligibility to participate in athletics, administrators, coaches and sponsors shall evaluate each student's academic work, attendance and behavior according to established administrative regulations. The efforts that address student needs as part of the evaluation are designed to support student learning and growth in their academic and athletic program.

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Off-Campus Activities

This policy shall also apply to student conduct that occurs off school property and would violate the Discipline Code if any of the following circumstances exist:

1. The conduct occurs during the time the student is traveling to and from school or traveling to and from school-sponsored activities, whether or not via school District furnished transportation.
2. The student is a member of an extracurricular activity and has been notified that particular off-campus conduct could result in exclusion from such activities.
3. Student expression or conduct materially and substantially disrupts the operations of the school, or the administration reasonably anticipates that the expression or conduct is likely to materially and substantially disrupt the operations of the school.
4. The conduct has a direct nexus to attendance at school or a school-sponsored activity, such as an agreement in school, at a school-sponsored activity, or during the time spent traveling to and from school and school-sponsored activities to complete a transaction outside of school that would violate the Student Discipline Code.
5. The conduct involves the theft or vandalism of school property.
6. There is otherwise a nexus between the proximity or timing of the conduct in relation to the student's attendance at school or school-sponsored activities.

Pol. 218

**Section 4**

**Guidelines**

Each school year, prior to participation in an interscholastic athletic activity, every student athlete and their person in parental relation shall sign and return the acknowledgement of receipt and review of the following:

SC 1425, 5323,  
Pol. 123.1, 123.2

	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>POLICY NO. 123 INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETICS</b></p> <p>1. Concussion and Traumatic Brain Injury Information Sheet.</p> <p>2. Sudden Cardiac Arrest Symptoms and Warning Signs Information Sheet.</p> <p><u>Eligibility/Attendance</u></p> <p>The Board directs that no student may participate in interscholastic athletics who has not:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Met the requirements for academic eligibility.</li> <li>2. Complied with the requirements of the Athletic Handbook.</li> <li>3. Complied with the requirements of the Code of Conduct for Interscholastic Athletics and Board policies and administrative regulations related to student discipline.</li> <li>4. Met the attendance requirements to participate.</li> </ol> <p>At a minimum, students must attend one-half of the school day, with a valid doctor’s excuse for late arrival/early dismissal, to be eligible to participate in the extracurricular activity after the school day. Weekend/holiday participation in any extracurricular activity requires that a student must attend at least one-half of the school day immediately preceding the weekend/holiday. Students will not be penalized if school is cancelled. Students missing more than one-half the school day must have a valid doctor’s excuse (i.e. for sickness, well-care visit for chronic conditions, stipulation in a 504 plan) to participate.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>5. Returned all school athletic equipment previously used.</li> <li>6. Adhered to applicable discipline standards.</li> </ol> <p>The selection of student participants will be conducted in a fair and consistent manner. The selection procedure(s) will be communication to the students and their person in parental relation in a timely fashion.</p>	<p>123.1-AR-1</p> <p>123.2-AR-1</p> <p>SC 511</p> <p>Pol. 204</p> <p>Pol. 218</p>
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The responsibility for conducting a student activity, including the tryout/selection process, rests with the coach, under the supervision of the building principal(s), and in accordance with the following guidelines:

1. All students who meet the District's academic eligibility criteria to try out and participate in activities will have the right to try out for student activities.
2. Notice to students will be made at least one month in advance and in a manner to which all students have information concerning the date, time, and place of the tryouts.
3. Tryouts will be held at reasonable dates, times, and places.
4. Students will be informed of the criteria to be used in the selection process, as well as the relative importance of the various criteria, in a reasonable time prior to the tryouts.
5. All students who try out will be given equal opportunity to demonstrate their skills and abilities.
6. A fair, reasonable, and to the extent possible, objective system of judging will be used by the coaches in selecting the students. Judging can be done either individually by the coaches or by the use of other qualified and competent judges if the coach so desires.
7. Students may participate in more than one (1) activity even if these activities occur at the same time of the year. A mutually agreeable arrangement must be made by the student and all sponsors/coaches involved. If sponsors/coaches cannot agree to mutually agreeable arrangement, the conflict will be resolved by the administration, which includes the possibility that the student may need to make a choice between the two (2) activities.
8. Students not selected for an activity will be notified in a timely manner. Whenever possible, they will be

	<p><b>POLICY NO. 123</b> <b>INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETICS</b></p> <p>informed of their areas of strengths/weaknesses so that the student can work to improve the areas of weakness in order to increase the possibility of selection in future tryouts.</p>	
	<p><u>Supervision</u></p> <p>A member of the professional staff, approved sponsor or independent volunteer must be present at all times when a building or part of a building is being used by students. This individual must remain at the location of the activity until all students have departed.</p>	
	<p><u>Male/Female Athletic Opportunities Report</u></p> <p>By October 15 of each year, on the designated disclosure form, the Superintendent or designee shall report to the PA Department of Education the interscholastic athletic opportunities and treatment for male and female secondary school students for the preceding school year.</p>	SC 1603-C
	<p>By November 1 of each year, the completed disclosure form shall be made available for public inspection during regular business hours and posted on the district’s website.</p> <p>The availability of the completed disclosure form shall be announced by posting a notice on school bulletin boards, in the school newspaper, on any electronic mailing list or list serve, and by any other reasonable means.</p>	SC 1603-C  SC 1603-C
<b>Section 5</b>	<p><u><b>Delegation of Responsibility</b></u></p> <p>The Superintendent or designee shall disseminate rules for the conduct of students participating in interscholastic athletics. Such rules shall be in conformity with regulations of the State Board of Education, the P.I.A.A and the District.</p> <p>The Superintendent shall ensure that similar athletic programs are offered to both sexes in proportion to the District’s enrollment.</p>	

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The Superintendent shall ensure that interscholastic athletics are open to all eligible students and that all students are fully informed of the opportunities available to them.

22 PA Code 12.1,  
12.4

Requests for the addition or elimination of interscholastic athletic programs shall be submitted to the Superintendent or their designee.

References:

School Code – 24 P.S. Sec. 511, 1425, 1601-C et seq., 1603-C, 5323, 5333

State Board of Education Regulations – 22 PA Code Sec. 4.27, 12.1, 12.4

Discrimination in Athletics, Title 34, Code of Federal Regulations – 34 CFR Sec. 106.41

Board Policy – 103, 103.1, 123.1, 123.2, 204, 218