

REGULATION MONTGOMERY COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Related Entries: DIA-RA, DIA-RB, ECK, ECK-RA, IQD, IQD-RA, IID-RB, JFA, JFA-RA, JGA

Responsible Office: Division of School Leadership and Improvement; Division of Teaching and Learning

Extracurricular and Co-curricular Activities

I. PURPOSE

To establish school-level procedures for implementing Montgomery County Board of Education Policy IQD, *Extracurricular Activities*

To define extracurricular activities (ECAs) as distinct from co-curricular activities (CCAs)

To establish the circumstances under which CCAs and ECAs may have academic eligibility requirements for middle and high school students

II. BACKGROUND

The Board affirms that participation in extracurricular activities has been shown to support regular school attendance and engagement. The Board considers positive interactions with peers and adults outside of the classroom, such as in clubs, creative and performing arts groups, and intramural and interscholastic sports, important to students building relationships vital to emotional, social, and intellectual development and overall school success.

While the Board recognizes that participation in extracurricular activities should be maintained and supported by academic standards, the Board does not desire to impede, through academic eligibility requirements, a student's participation in an activity that could be key to their continued engagement in school.

III. DEFINITIONS

A. A *co-curricular activity* (CCA) means an activity of a graded course that takes place beyond the classroom, class period, or instructional day in which all students in the class must participate to meet requirements for the class. CCAs include activities

beyond the classroom such as a class field trip or an instructional program at the Lathrop E. Smith Environmental Education Center.

- B. An *extracurricular activity* (ECA) means a voluntary, student-led activity that is organized around students' interests and open to students enrolled in MCPS.
- C. *MCPS property* includes any school or other MCPS facility, including grounds owned or operated by MCPS; buses and other vehicles owned, operated, or hired by MCPS; and the facility and grounds of any MCPS-sponsored activity involving students. The behavior intervention consequences set forth in the MCPS Student Code of Conduct apply to students at all times while they are on MCPS property.
- D. *School-sponsored* ECAs have sought approval from, and been designated as a school-sponsored activity by, the principal/designee (e.g., ECA director). By definition, each school-sponsored ECA must have a sponsor who is an MCPS employee and is responsible for supervising students and other duties set forth in this regulation and negotiated agreements.

IV. ELIGIBILITY FOR EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

- A. All ECAs will be open to all students without discrimination on the basis of actual or perceived personal characteristics defined in Board Policy ACA, *Nondiscrimination, Equity, and Cultural Proficiency*, subject only to those qualifications necessary to fulfill the specified objectives of the activity.
 - 1. MCPS schools shall offer ECAs open to all enrolled students.
 - 2. Students shall be encouraged to participate in activities that satisfy current needs and interests as well as to explore activities to broaden their interests and experiences.
 - 3. Principals retain the authority to place restrictions on student participation in ECAs for –
 - a) violations of disciplinary rules, and
 - b) unexcused absences on the day of an activity.
- B. Academic Eligibility
 - 1. ECAs may not establish academic eligibility requirements for participation except under the following circumstances:

- a) ECAs that are affiliates of national, state, or regional organizations that have academic eligibility requirements (e.g., National Honor Society) may establish academic eligibility requirements consistent with the standards of the affiliated organization.
 - b) Eligibility requirements for interscholastic athletics may include academic eligibility and are addressed in MCPS Regulation IQD-RA, *Academic Eligibility for High School Students Who Participate in Interscholastic Athletics*, and MCPS Regulation IQB-RA, *Academic Eligibility for Middle School Students Who Participate in Interscholastic Athletics*, along with additional age, attendance, enrollment, and health requirements.
2. Academic eligibility requirements must be publicized in advance, as well as any additional requirements specified by the affiliate organization.

V. PROCEDURES

A. Establishing an Extracurricular Activities Program

1. Early in the school year, the principal/designee shall notify students of opportunities to participate in or create school ECAs.
2. Consistent with MCPS Regulation JFA-RA, *Student Rights and Responsibilities*, students and MCPS employees have the right to organize or recommend an ECA for which there is sufficient interest and support, and whose activities comply with Board policies or MCPS regulations (hereafter “MCPS rules”).
3. The total program of ECAs in the school shall be comprehensive and well-balanced, providing many and varied opportunities for all students.

B. Administering the program

1. Students shall be encouraged to participate in or create activities that satisfy current needs and interests as well as to explore activities to broaden their interests and experiences. Some students need encouragement to participate more fully; however, others may need to be counseled against over-participation in ECAs.
2. The individual school determines the scheduling of the student ECA program. ECAs may take place outside the instructional day as well as

during noninstructional time within the instructional day. Factors such as the number of students transported by bus and student population within the walking boundary should be considered when scheduling the student activity program. Schools with a large number of students transported by bus may find it necessary to schedule most ECAs during the school day. Other schools, such as those serving communities within walking distance, may decide that after-school student activities are better suited to their total program.

3. The principal/designee may authorize the use of independent activity funds for expenses (e.g., special clothing or equipment) required for participation in a school-sponsored ECA. Sponsors shall monitor the expenses of each school-sponsored ECA and seek funds, as appropriate, so that no student is discouraged or excluded from participation based on cost.
4. ECA expenses supported with IAF funds shall be administered in accordance with procedures set forth in MCPS Regulation DIA-RA, *Accounting for Financial Operations/Independent Activity Funds*.

C. Extracurricular Activity Sponsors

1. Each school-sponsored ECA shall have an MCPS employee sponsor, appointed by the principal, in consultation with the students involved, as appropriate and consistent with MCPS Regulation JFA-RA, *Student Rights and Responsibilities*, and with the approval of the area associate superintendent.
 - a) The role of the ECA sponsor is to represent the principal in carrying out the overall responsibility for the activity and adherence to MCPS rules. The sponsor shall inform the principal/designee of infractions of MCPS rules by the group or group members for their response.
 - b) Stipends and criteria for appointing ECA sponsors are established in negotiated agreements.
2. As set forth in Regulation JFA-RA, *Student Rights and Responsibilities*, non-school-sponsored student-initiated clubs shall not be represented or treated as a school-sponsored club.
 - a) No MCPS employee leads or actively participates in such meetings; however, an MCPS employee may provide oversight for safety.

- b) Nonschool persons do not direct, conduct, control, or regularly attend group meetings.
- c) See Regulation JFA-RA for additional provisions regarding non-school-sponsored student meetings and clubs.

D. Evaluation of the Program

Each year, the principal/designee, in cooperation with ECA sponsors and students, shall evaluate the ECA program for alignment with Board Policy IQD, *Extracurricular Activities*; this regulation; and provisions in negotiated agreements governing stipendiary sponsors.

E. Provisions for Co-curricular Activities

1. MCPS grading and attendance procedures apply to courses with required co-curricular activities.
2. For courses with co-curricular requirements, course syllabi shall notify students that co-curricular activities are mandatory class meetings, as appropriate.
 - a) The course instructor shall provide students with as much advance notice of co-curricular activities as possible.
 - b) The Division of Teaching and Learning shall develop and provide guidance for what constitutes a reasonable amount of advance notice and flexibility in grading procedures when advance notice cannot be provided within a reasonable period of time.
3. A student may not be refused permission to participate in a co-curricular activity or event that is assessed and graded (e.g., rehearsals or performances of band, chorus, orchestra, theater, or dance classes).

Related Sources: *MCPS Student Rights and Responsibilities; MCPS Student Code of Conduct*

Administrative History: Formerly Regulation No. 520-2, March 23, 1979; revised December 1986; non-substantive revisions June 8, 2020; revised June 27, 2025, including technical updates to directory information that were effective July 1, 2025.

MCPS NONDISCRIMINATION STATEMENT

Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) prohibits illegal discrimination based on race, ethnicity, color, ancestry, national origin, nationality, religion, immigration status, sex, gender, gender identity, gender expression, sexual orientation, family structure/parental status, marital status, age, ability (cognitive, social/emotional, and physical), poverty and socioeconomic status, language, or other legally or constitutionally protected attributes or affiliations. Discrimination undermines our community's long-standing efforts to create, foster, and promote equity, inclusion, and acceptance for all. The Board prohibits the use of language and/or the display of images and symbols that promote hate and can be reasonably expected to cause substantial disruption to school or district operations or activities. For more information, please review Montgomery County Board of Education Policy ACA, *Nondiscrimination, Equity, and Cultural Proficiency*. This Policy affirms the Board's belief that each and every student matters, and in particular, that educational outcomes should never be predictable by any individual's actual or perceived personal characteristics. The Policy also recognizes that equity requires proactive steps to identify and redress implicit biases, practices that have an unjustified disparate impact, and structural and institutional barriers that impede equality of educational or employment opportunities. MCPS also provides equal access to the Boy/Girl Scouts and other designated youth groups.*

It is the policy of the state of Maryland that all public and publicly funded schools and school programs operate in compliance with:

- (1) Title VI of the federal *Civil Rights Act of 1964*; and
- (2) Title 26, Subtitle 7 of the Education Article of the Maryland Code, which states that public and publicly funded schools and programs may not
 - (a) discriminate against a current student, a prospective student, or the parent or guardian of a current or prospective student on the basis of race, ethnicity, color, religion, sex, age, national origin, marital status, sexual orientation, gender identity, or disability;
 - (b) refuse enrollment of a prospective student, expel a current student, or withhold privileges from a current student, a prospective student, or the parent or guardian of a current or prospective student because of an individual's race, ethnicity, color, religion, sex, age, national origin, marital status, sexual orientation, gender identity, or disability; or
 - (c) discipline, invoke a penalty against, or take any other retaliatory action against a student or parent or guardian of a student who files a complaint alleging that the program or school discriminated against the student, regardless of the outcome of the complaint.**

Please note that contact information and federal, state, or local content requirements may change between editions of this document and shall supersede the statements and references contained in this version. Please see the online version for the most up-to-date information at www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/info/nondiscrimination.

For inquiries or complaints about discrimination against MCPS students***	For inquiries or complaints about discrimination against MCPS staff***
Director of Student Compliance and Appeals Division of Equity and Organizational Development 850 Hungerford Drive, Suite 200, Rockville, MD 20850 240-740-3215 SWC@mcpsmd.org	Human Resource Compliance Officer Division of Human Resources and Talent Management Department of Compliance and Investigations 15 West Gude Drive, Suite B400, Rockville, MD 20850 240-740-2888 DCI@mcpsmd.org
For student requests for accommodations under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973	For staff requests for accommodations under the Americans with Disabilities Act
Section 504 Coordinator Division of Specialized Support Services, School Counseling Services Unit 850 Hungerford Drive, Room 257, Rockville, MD 20850 240-987-8031 504@mcpsmd.org	ADA Compliance Coordinator Division of Human Resources and Talent Management Department of Compliance and Investigations 15 West Gude Drive, Suite B400, Rockville, MD 20850 240-740-2888 DCI@mcpsmd.org
For inquiries or complaints about sex discrimination under Title IX, including sexual harassment, against students or staff***	
Title IX Coordinator Division of Equity and Organizational Development, Student Compliance and Appeals 850 Hungerford Drive, Suite 200, Rockville, MD 20850 240-740-3215 TitleIX@mcpsmd.org	

*This notification complies with the federal *Elementary and Secondary Education Act*, as amended.

**This notification complies with the *Code of Maryland Regulations Section 13A.01.07*.

***Discrimination complaints may be filed with other agencies, such as the following: U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC), Baltimore Field Office, GH Fallon Federal Building, 31 Hopkins Plaza, Suite 1432, Baltimore, MD 21201, 1-800-669-4000, 1-800-669-6820 (TTY); Maryland Commission on Civil Rights (MCCR), William Donald Schaefer Tower, 6 Saint Paul Street, Suite 900, Baltimore, MD 21202, 410-767-8600, 1-800-637-6247, mccr@maryland.gov; Agency Equity Officer, Office of Equity Assurance and Compliance, Office of the Deputy State Superintendent of Operations, Maryland State Department of Education, 200 West Baltimore Street, Baltimore, MD 21201-2595, oeac.msde@maryland.gov; or U.S. Department of Education, Office for Civil Rights (OCR), 61 Forsyth St. S.W., Suite 19T10, Atlanta, GA 30303, 404-974-9406 and TDD: 800-877-8339, OCR.Atlanta@ed.gov, 1-800-421-3481, 1-800-877-8339 (TDD), OCR@ed.gov, or www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/complaintintro.html.

This document is available, upon request, in languages other than English and in an alternate format under the *Americans with Disabilities Act*, by contacting the MCPS Office of Communications at 240-740-2837, 1-800-735-2258 (Maryland Relay), or PIO@mcpsmd.org. Individuals who need sign language interpretation or cued speech transliteration may contact the MCPS Office of Interpreting Services at 240-740-1800, 301-637-2958 (VP) mcpsinterpretingservices@mcpsmd.org, or MCPSInterpretingServices@mcpsmd.org.