

REGULATION

MONTGOMERY COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Related Entries: DIA-RA, IQB-EA
Office: Deputy Superintendent of Schools

Extracurricular Activities

I. PURPOSE

To establish procedures for maintaining an extracurricular program at the local school level

II. BACKGROUND

In view of the MCPS efforts to improve the participation of minority students in extracurricular activities, schools are requested to develop specific strategies to encourage the participation of minorities.

III. PROCEDURES

A. Establishing a Program

1. Early in the school year the principal notifies students regarding opportunities to participate in the extracurricular program of the school.
2. Students and faculty have the right to suggest and organize any extracurricular club or activity for which there is sufficient interest and support and whose activities are not unlawful nor contrary to the policies of the Montgomery County Public Schools.
3. The total program of extracurricular activities in the school should be comprehensive and well-balanced, providing many and varied opportunities for all students.
4. All activities should be established on the basis of educational merit, need, and interest from within the school.
5. All activities will be open to all students without discrimination on the basis of, but not limited to, actual or perceived personal characteristics as defined in Montgomery County Board of Education Policy ACA,

Nondiscrimination, Equity, and Cultural Proficiency, subject only to those qualifications necessary to fulfill the special aims of the organization.

B. Administering the program

1. The participation of students in the extracurricular program should be based upon sound guidance rather than upon a set of rules and regulations formulated to control membership. Students should be encouraged to participate in activities which satisfy current needs and interests as well as to explore activities which would broaden their interests and experiences. Some students need encouragement to participate more fully; however, others may need to be counseled against over participation. In all cases participation is a matter of voluntary choice by each student.
2. The principal, in consultation with the students involved, where such consulting is appropriate, appoints faculty sponsors for all school-sponsored extracurricular activities.
3. The role of the faculty sponsor is a various and changing one, depending upon the nature of the activity. The sponsor may instruct, coach, supervise, administer, or advise at various times. In general, however, the sponsor represents the principal in carrying out the overall responsibility for the activity program.
4. All activities for which the faculty sponsor is paid a stipend must be approved by the area associate superintendent in advance.
5. In those activities where faculty supervision is not a clearly defined student need, it may be appropriate for the principal to appoint adult supervisors who are neither faculty members nor employees of the school system. The principal retains overall responsibility for the selection of the sponsor and for monitoring the activities under nonschool adult supervision. In such cases these sponsors would not be eligible for stipend benefit from the school system.
6. The scheduling of the student activity program is a function of the individual school. Schools with a large number of students transported by bus may find it necessary to schedule most extracurricular activities during the school day. Other schools, serving communities of high population concentration, may decide that afterschool student activities are better suited to their total program.

7. The principal may refuse to permit a student to participate in an extracurricular activity if the student has an unexcused absence on the same day as the activity.
8. Financial matters relating to the activity program will be administered in accordance with procedures set forth in MCPS Regulation DIA-RA, *Accounting for Financial Operations/Independent Activity Funds*.
9. The factor of cost should not determine a student's participation in any activity or membership in any organization.

C. Evaluation of the Program

1. Each year the principal, in cooperation with the faculty and students, evaluates the extracurricular program to determine whether the activities are sufficiently meeting the needs of the students.
2. All rights and responsibilities of students, such as equal opportunities to participate, shall be carefully reviewed during the annual evaluation of the program.
3. All opportunities for the participation of professional personnel in a stipend activity shall be reviewed during the annual evaluation of the program.

Administrative History: Formerly Regulation No. 520-2, March 23, 1979; revised December 1986; non-substantive revisions June 8, 2020.