

PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL STUDENTS—ACCESS TO NON-CHARTER PUBLIC SCHOOL EXTRACURRICULAR AND INTERSCHOLASTIC ACTIVITIES

The Board recognizes that Maine law sets standards for public charter school student access to non-charter public school extracurricular and interscholastic activities.

“Extracurricular and interscholastic activities,” for the purpose of this policy, are school-sponsored activities for which participants are selected by staff supervising the activities, including those teams, both athletic and academic, that participate in interscholastic competition.

A student enrolled in a public charter school is eligible to try out for extracurricular and interscholastic activities sponsored by M.S.A.D. #49 provided that the following requirements are met/satisfied:

- A. The public charter school student’s parent/legal guardian resides within the attendance area served by M.S.A.D. #49 or if the student withdrew from a M.S.A.D. #49 non-charter public school to attend the public charter school.
- B. The student applies for and receives written approval from the Superintendent/designee.
- C. The student agrees to abide by equivalent rules of participation as are applicable to regularly enrolled (full time) students participating in the activity and provides evidence that the rules of participation are being met.
- D. The student pays the same activity fee as other students to participate.
- E. The student complies with the same physical examination, immunization, insurance, age, and semester eligibility requirements as regularly enrolled students participating in the activity. All required documentation must be made available upon request by the school unit.
- F. The student meets equivalent academic standards as those established for regularly enrolled students participating in the activity and provides evidence that the academic standards are being met.
- G. The student abides by the same transportation policy as regularly enrolled students participating in the activity.
- H. The public charter school the student attends does not provide the same extracurricular or interscholastic activity

The Superintendent/principal will be responsible for approving or withholding approval of applications to try out for an extracurricular activity. The Superintendent/principal may withhold approval only if the school does not have the capacity to provide the student with the opportunity to participate in the co-curricular activity i.e., if the activity is already filled.

If approval is withheld, the Superintendent/principal will provide a written explanation to the student or the student's parent/guardian stating the reason for the decision. The criteria for selection of participants shall be determined by the staff members (coaches, advisors and their supervisors) responsible for the activities. Tryouts are by nature competitive. *Eligibility to try out does not guarantee participation.*

Decisions resulting in non-selection of individual students shall not be subject to appeal or reconsideration unless they are in violation of law or Board policy.

VERIFICATION OF ELIGIBILITY

To permit verification that the student has met eligibility requirements under this policy, the student's parent (or the student, if 18 years old) must authorize the public charter school to provide to the Superintendent/principal all information necessary to determine whether the student meets the requirements.

DELEGATION OF AUTHORITY

In order to maintain an efficient and orderly method for processing applications for participation, the Board authorizes the Superintendent/principal to develop procedures, as appropriate, for the Superintendent/principal's use in determining whether students have met eligibility requirements and for granting or withholding approval of participation.

M.S.A.D. #49 has no obligation to notify or provide information concerning eligibility for **access to** participation in school-sponsored cocurricular, interscholastic or extracurricular activities to students enrolled in public charter schools.

APPEALS

Except as otherwise provided in this policy, appeals from administration and application of the Board policy are heard by the Board, whose decision is final and binding. Appeals that question the Board's policy compliance with legal requirements must be made to the Commissioner, whose decision is final and binding.

COST-SHARING

For each public charter school student who participates in an extracurricular activity at a M.S.A.D. #49 non-charter public school, the public charter school must pay a reasonable share of the noncharter public school's costs for the activity, as determined through negotiations between the schools involved.

Legal Reference: 20-A MRSA § 2415

Approved: December 1, 2016