

# POLICY

**PATERSON  
BOARD OF EDUCATION**

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## 2431 ATHLETIC COMPETITION

The Board of Education recognizes the value of a program of athletic competition for both boys and girls as an integral part of the total school experience. Game activities and practice sessions provide opportunities to learn the values of competition and good sportsmanship. Programs of athletic competition, both intrascholastic and interscholastic, offer students the opportunity to exercise and test their athletic abilities in a context greater and more varied than that offered by the class or school or school district alone, and an opportunity for career and educational development.

For purpose of this Policy, programs of athletic competition include all activities relating to competitive sports contests, games, events, or sports exhibitions involving individual students or teams of students when such events occur within or between schools within this district or with any schools outside this district. The programs of athletic competition shall include, but are not limited to, high school interscholastic athletic programs, middle school interscholastic athletic programs where school teams or squads play teams or squads from other school districts, and/or intramural athletic programs within a school or among schools in the district and any cheerleading program or activity in the school district.

### Eligibility Standards

A student who wishes to participate in a program of athletic competition must submit, on a form provided by the district, the signed consent of his/her parent. The consent of the parent of a student who wishes to participate in a program of athletic competition will include an acknowledgment of the physical hazards that may be encountered in the activity.



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Student participation in a program of athletic competition shall be governed by the following eligibility standards:

1. To be eligible for participation in the interscholastic athletic program of a New Jersey State Interscholastic Athletic Association (NJSIAA) member school, all high school students must meet, at a minimum, all the eligibility requirements of the Constitution, Bylaws, and Rules and Regulations of the NJSIAA.

Home schooled children are eligible to participate in the high school interscholastic athletic program of this district only if the school district, the parent, and the home schooled child comply with the Guidelines, Constitution, Bylaws, Rules and Regulations of NJSIAA, and the policies and regulations of the Board of Education.

2. A student in grades six (6) through twelve (12) is eligible for participation in school district sponsored programs of athletic competition if he/she passed all courses required for promotion or graduation in the preceding marking period.

Home schooled children in grades six (6) through twelve (12) are eligible to participate in school district sponsored programs of athletic competition of this district.

3. A student in any grade must maintain a satisfactory record of attendance to be eligible for participation in school district sponsored programs of athletic competition. An attendance record is unsatisfactory if the number of unexcused absences exceed ten (10) school days in the school year prior to the student commencing



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participation in school district sponsored programs of athletic competition.

A student who is absent with an unexcused absence for a school day may not participate in school district sponsored programs of athletic competition the afternoon or evening of that school day.

A student who is serving an out-of-school suspension may not participate in school district sponsored programs of athletic competition while serving the suspension.

4. A student in any grade who fails to observe school rules for student conduct may forfeit his/her eligibility for participation in school district sponsored programs of athletic competition.

Notice of the school district's eligibility requirements shall be available to students.

### Required Examinations - Interscholastic or Intramural Team or Squad

Students enrolled in grades six to twelve must receive a medical examination, in accordance with the provisions of N.J.S.A. 18A:40-41.7, prior to participation on a school-sponsored interscholastic or intramural team or squad and any cheerleading program or activity.

The examination shall be conducted within 365 days prior to the first day of official practice in an athletic season with examinations being conducted at the medical home of the student. The "medical home" is defined as a health care provider and that provider's practice site chosen by the student's parent for the provision of health care. If a student does not have a medical home, the school district shall provide the examination at the school physician's office or other comparably equipped facility.



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The parent may choose either the school physician or their own private physician to provide this medical examination. The medical examination required prior to participation shall be in accordance with the requirements as outlined in N.J.A.C. 6A:16-2.2(h)1 and Regulation 2431.2 and shall be documented using the Pre-participation Physical Evaluation form required by the Department of Education.

Information concerning a student's HIV/AIDS status shall not be required as part of the medical examination or health history pursuant to N.J.S.A. 26:5C-1 et seq. The health findings of this medical examination shall be maintained as part of the student's health record.

### Emergency Procedures

Athletic coaches shall be trained in first aid to include sports-related concussion and head injuries, the use of a defibrillator, the identification of student athletes who are injured or disabled in the course of any athletic program or activity, and any other first aid procedures or other health related trainings required by law or the Superintendent.

The Superintendent shall prepare and present to the Board for its approval procedures for the emergency treatment of injuries and disabilities that occur in the course of any athletic program or activity. Emergency procedures shall be reviewed not less than once in each school year and shall be disseminated to appropriate staff members.

### Interscholastic Standards

The Board shall approve annually 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.



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The Board adopts the Constitution, Bylaws, Rules, and Regulations of the New Jersey State Interscholastic Athletic Association as Board policy and shall review such rules on a regular basis to ascertain they continue to be in conformity with the objectives of this Board.

### Displaced Students from Outside Districts

For a purpose of this policy, "displaced pupil" means the pupil who has instructional needs that are not being met by an outside district who may be performing well below his/her social or the academic capacity according to displacing school's academic guidelines.

The Board of Education believes that the educational needs of all pupils should be served. The Board will make every reasonable effort to identify and educate Paterson Public School student/residents who are displaced pupils whose learning is impeded by outside districts who have displaced students from their institute of learning.

A displaced pupil who may be released from the outside district having no other placement but the sending schools district (Paterson) may return to the district to enroll in the school of their choice. In addition the pupil will be able to participate in athletics and extracurricular activities without any wait time (30 day sit rule) due to the displacement of the pupil from the prior district. Multiple transfers to the same school will be highly scrutinized.

The Superintendent shall annually prepare, approve, and present to the Board for its consideration a program of interscholastic athletics that includes a complete schedule of athletic events and shall inform the Board of changes in that schedule.



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N.J.S.A. 2C:21-11  
N.J.S.A. 18A:11-3 et seq.  
N.J.A.C. 6A:7-1.7; 6A:16-1.4; 6A:16-2.1 et seq.

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