

CONTESTS FOR STUDENTS

Approval for in-school participation in extracurricular contests sponsored by organizations outside the schools may be granted by the Superintendent or his/her designee, as long as participation does not interfere with the instructional program. When such contests involve promotional aid, school time, or faculty assistance to students in essay writing, poster making, or other activities, the Superintendent shall determine whether the experiences are closely enough allied to and in support of the instructional work of the school and will clearly serve to advance the educational aims of the District. The worthiness of the sponsoring agency's cause or the opportunity for individuals to win prizes shall not in themselves constitute sufficient reason for approving a contest.

There is no District obligation to distribute or post any community group contest materials. But if a forum is opened up to any category of group (i.e., non-profit, non-partisan, community groups), the Superintendent will not discriminate against speech or materials on the basis of its viewpoint or religious content.

The determination of the Superintendent will be viewpoint-neutral in order to provide equal access to "limited public forums" including bulletin Boards for notices, tables at back-to-school nights, or hand-outs to students.

Contests and awards whether local, state, or national shall be:

- A. For the benefit of the student;
- B. Open to all students on a non-discriminatory basis;
- C. Consistent with District objectives;
- D. Judged by disinterested parties;
- E. Properly supervised with safety precautions in place;
- F. Voluntary for students and teachers.

Contests and awards shall not place undue time or financial burdens on students, teachers and parents. They shall not promote commercial products or partisan viewpoints. Participation shall not be dependent on the financial status of the student.

Legal References: N.J.S.A. 18A:11-1 General mandatory powers and duties
N.J.S.A. 18A:42-2 School orchestra not to compete with civilian
N.J.S.A. 18A:54-20 Powers of Board (county vocational schools)

Cross References: 1314 Fundraising by outside organizations
1320 Participation in out-of-school community activities
*3280 Gifts, grants and bequests
*5126 Awards for achievement
*6145 Extracurricular activities

CONTESTS FOR STUDENTS (continued)

Cross References: (continued)

*6145.1/6145.2	Intramural competition; interscholastic competition
6145.4	Public performances and exhibitions
*6153	Field trips

*Indicates policy is included in the Critical Policy Reference Manual.

Key Words

Contests for Students, Awards

Approved: March 24, 2008

Revised: