

## **510 SCHOOL ACTIVITIES**

### **I. PURPOSE**

The purpose of this policy is to impart to students, employees and the community the district's policy related to the student activity program.

### **II. GENERAL STATEMENT OF POLICY**

School activities provide additional opportunities for students to pursue special interests that contribute to their physical, mental, and emotional well-being. District 194 is committed to a school activities program as an integral part of the total educational program. The intent of school activities is to complement the instructional program in providing students with additional opportunities for growth and development.

Students enrolled full-time in District 194 schools, including Post Secondary Educational Options, and approved off-site vocational programs are eligible to participate. The district will allow all resident students receiving instruction in a home school as defined in Minnesota Stat. 123B.36, Subd. 1, to be eligible to fully participate in school activities on the same basis as public school students.

The district will also allow students in the middle school grades who attend a public or private school that is located within the boundaries of the district and that does not offer the activity or sport to participate in high school activities subject to the restrictions outlined below.

The following stipulations are applicable:

- a. All participants shall pay the appropriate district fee for participation in the activity.
- b. Home schooled and private school students are responsible for their own transportation to and from the middle school or high school activity.
- c. All participants are subject to the eligibility rules and regulations set forth by the district and the MSHSL.

### **III. RESPONSIBILITY**

- a. The student activity program should represent the interests and desires of the students; conform to the standards established by the Minnesota State High School League (MSHSL); operate in accordance with applicable athletic conference policies; adhere to appropriate district policies; and operate within

the resources available.

- b. The student activity program shall provide for a balance of athletic and non-athletic activities. The program shall also provide for equivalent participation opportunities for students of both genders.
- c. The Board of Education expects all students who participate in school-sponsored activities to represent the school and community in a responsible manner.
- d. It shall be the responsibility of the superintendent or designee to disseminate information needed to inform students, parents, staff and community of the opportunities available within the school activity program and the rules of participation.
- e. Those students who participate in MSHSL activities must also abide by the league rules. It shall be the responsibility of those employees who conduct MSHSL activities to familiarize students and parents with all applicable rules, penalties, and opportunities.
- f. The superintendent or designee shall be responsible for conducting an evaluation of the school activity programs inclusive of program participation facts and presenting the results and any recommendations to the Board of Education as requested.

#### **IV. PROCEDURES AND GUIDELINES**

The district encourages student participation in all co-curricular activities. However, it is recognized that there may be practical considerations, which lead to the limiting of participation in an activity.

These factors include:

##### **Middle Schools (Grades 6, 7, and 8)**

- a. Levels of competition not to exceed team in Grade 6.
- b. Levels of competition generally A & B teams in Grades 7 and 8. Participation in MSHSL sponsored programs is permissible for students in Grades 7 through 12. Students in Grades 7 through 12 are eligible to participate on freshman, sophomore, B-squad, and junior varsity teams.
- c. On rare occasions, a 7<sup>th</sup> or 8<sup>th</sup> grade student may be physically, emotionally, and academically mature, as well as athletically gifted. Consideration should be given to allow that student to compete at the varsity level. The needs of the student and concern for his/her physical, mental, emotional, and academic well-being must be a high priority. A decision such as this will require a thoughtful and careful look at these elements when deciding what will be in the best interest of the student. Placement procedures are outlined in the Coaches/Advisors Handbook. If the high school activity requires limitations on the roster size resulting in roster cuts, the district may choose to not allow 7<sup>th</sup> or 8<sup>th</sup> grade students to participate at the high

school level in order to afford more opportunities for high school students to participate.

- d. The number of participants at each middle school level should be based on reasonable opportunity to participate.
- e. The safe operation of the program.

**High Schools (Grades 9, 10, 11, and 12)**

- a. Number of participants allowed by the Minnesota State High School League.
- b. Levels of competition not to exceed varsity, junior varsity, B squad.
- c. Realistic opportunity to compete.
- d. The safe operation of the program.
- e. Staffing resources.

If the head coach/advisor of an activity foresees the possibility of limiting the roster size by cutting participants, the following procedure shall be followed:

- a. Parents and participants shall be made aware of this possibility during the pre-season parent and team meeting.
- b. The head coach/advisor shall meet with the activities director prior to the season to discuss and develop a mutually agreeable process to be followed.