Purpose: To establish Board of Education (Board) expectations as they relate to student participation and equity in extracurricular activities and athletic programs.

Policy Statement: The Board recognizes the value of student participation in extracurricular activities and understands such programs serve as a viable complement to a student’s overall educational experience. Academic achievement for each and every student is the cornerstone of the Board’s goals, as is creating a culture of wellness for all students. Therefore, time commitments for extracurricular activities will incorporate these goals to achieve a reasonable balance for students who seek to participate in extracurricular activities.

Extracurricular activities promote student achievement and engagement in the school community. They teach teamwork and collaborative problem-solving skills necessary to be productive citizens.

This policy promotes equity of access to extracurricular activities for all students. Additionally, this policy reflects the value of all courses taken through Frederick County Public Schools (FCPS) by including dual enrollment, virtual and summer session classes.

Definitions:

“Extracurricular activities” are school-sponsored activities beyond regular class activities in which the student represents the school, such as athletics, clubs/organizations, or class/club officers.

“Corollary athletic program” is specifically designed to combine groups of students with and without disabilities together in physical activity and competition.
509.1 Permitted Extracurricular Activities

Extracurricular activities are provided as follows:

A. With the exception of paragraph B below, extracurricular activities are offered to students in grades nine through twelve.

B. Exceptions may be made for elementary and middle school students by the Superintendent’s designee when younger students are needed for a drama or musical theater program.

C. In grades kindergarten through eight, interscholastic sports and marching band will not be part of the school program for the students.

D. Co-curricular programs and activities are those activities which are countywide expectations for a particular class and in which all students in the class must participate as part of their grade. These activities are designated in the course guide program overview, such as band, chorus, or drama.

509.2 Academic Standards for Participation in Extracurricular Activities

The school system considers participation in extracurricular activities a student privilege not a student right. Therefore, in order to participate in extracurricular activities, a student must maintain specific academic standards as established in FCPS Regulation 500-24.

509.3 Athletic Program – Equal Access

A. The Board supports provisions of Title IX and the implementation of the athletic program to reflect equity in funding, scheduling, and access to program and facilities. The program will allow all interested students, male or female, a relatively equal opportunity both to enjoy the benefits of athletic participation and to pursue the academic requirements for a high school diploma.

B. The Board supports provisions of the corollary athletic program, which promotes the inclusion of students with disabilities in school athletic programs.

All students with disabilities will have opportunities for participation in mainstream physical education and interscholastic athletic programs. Appropriate and reasonable accommodations for students with disabilities shall be provided. Adapted physical education programs and corollary athletic programs will be available to all students.

C. Athletic programs are administered in accordance with the regulations of the Maryland Public Secondary Schools Athletic Association (MPSSAA).

D. The Superintendent shall develop regulations that will ensure implementation of the intent of this policy and provide an annual report to the Board.
E. Complaints alleging Title IX violations as they relate to inequity or discrimination in interscholastic high school athletics may be submitted to the Supervisor of Athletics and Extracurricular Activities who serves as the Title IX coordinator for such allegations.

Note: Complaints from employees or applicants alleging Title IX violations as they relate to sexual discrimination should refer to Board Policy 318 Sexual Harassment – Employee Rights and Reporting and Board Policy 309 Discrimination Unlawful.

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