

**POLICY 5.60**

**5-A** I recommend the Board approve the proposed revisions to Policy 5.60, entitled "Eligibility for Participation in K-12 Extracurricular Activities."

[Contact: Linda Cowart, 434-7450.]

**Development**

**CONSENT ITEM**

- Among other changes, this revision incorporates content from Directive D-5.60 into this Policy.
- An ad hoc committee including principals, an area superintendent, athletics office representatives, and a Student Services representative participated in portions of the revision drafting process.

## PROPOSED REVISIONS TO POLICY 5.60

### **ELIGIBILITY FOR PARTICIPATION IN K-12 EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES**

- 1 1. **Purpose.--** Extracurricular activities are intended to supplement the regular curriculum of  
2 the school and to provide enrichment opportunities for students. As important as  
3 extracurricular activities are for growth and development of each student, they must remain  
4 supplemental to the student's learning and mastery of the basic skills in the regular  
5 curriculum.
- 6 2. **Equitable Participation**
  - 7 a. Principals shall select faculty advisors, directors, coaches, sponsors, and staff who are  
8 diverse in racial, ethnic, and gender composition.
  - 9 b. Students shall not be excluded from nor denied positions of leadership in any  
10 extracurricular activity due to race, ~~ethnicity~~ national origin, disabilities, ~~gender~~ sex,  
11 marital status, or limited English proficiency, as required by the Florida Education  
12 Equity Act.
  - 13 c. Students shall not be denied participation in any activity because of inability to pay for  
14 expenses related to the activity. However, pursuant to Fla. Stat. § 1006.28(3)(b)  
15 [233.46(2)] and Policy 8.1225 [anticipated to be adopted on January 13, 2003], a  
16 student will be suspended from participation in extracurricular activities while owing an  
17 obligation after reasonable collection efforts by the principal, for lost, destroyed, or  
18 unnecessarily-damaged instructional materials, unless the student elects to perform  
19 community service hours to satisfy the obligation pursuant to Policy 8.1225.
  - 20 d. The Superintendent or designee shall monitor fair and equitable access to  
21 extracurricular activities for all students as follows:
    - 22 i. STUDENTS IN GRADES K-5.-- Elementary school principals will annually  
23 complete a survey of extracurricular activities (instructional and non-instructional).  
24 This survey will be disaggregated by total number of participants, participants with  
25 Exceptional Student Education (ESE), Limited English Proficient (LEP) students,  
26 ~~gender~~ sex, and race (African-American, Hispanic, White and Other).
    - 27 ii. STUDENTS IN GRADES 6-8.-- The Superintendent shall establish procedures to  
28 ensure that the eligibility Bylaws of the Palm Beach County Middle School Athletic  
29 Activities Association ("PBCMSAA") are enforced. The middle school principals  
30 will annually complete a survey of ten extracurricular activities (instructional and  
31 non-instructional) designated by the Superintendent. This survey will be  
32 disaggregated by number of participants, participants with Exceptional Student  
33 Education (ESE), Limited English Proficient (LEP) students, ~~gender~~ sex, and race  
34 (African-American, Hispanic, White and Other).
    - 35 iii. STUDENTS IN GRADES 9-12.-- ~~The Superintendent shall establish procedures~~  
36 ~~to ensure that t~~The eligibility Bylaws of the Florida High School Activities

37 Association ("FHSAA") ~~are~~ shall be enforced. The high school principals will  
38 annually complete a survey of ten (10) extracurricular activities (instructional and  
39 non-instructional) designated by the Superintendent. This survey will be  
40 disaggregated by number of participants, ~~gender~~ sex, and race (African-  
41 American, Hispanic, White and Other).

42 Each school's survey will be submitted by May 30 to the appropriate ~~Area Executive~~  
43 ~~Director~~ Area Superintendent, based on data from the Student Activity Screen (A-26).

44 e. By June 15 of each school year, Area Superintendents will submit the survey results to  
45 the Superintendent, along with a written action plan for removing any apparent barriers  
46 to diversity in staff and student participation in extracurricular activities. If the level of  
47 participation of any such category of students is substantially different from the  
48 enrollment proportion of that category, it should be supportable by a nondiscriminatory  
49 explanation.

50 f. By June 30 of each year, the Superintendent shall submit a report consistent with  
51 SBER 6A-19.004 to the Board regarding participation in extracurricular activities at the  
52 elementary, middle, and senior high school levels. This report shall be based on the  
53 Area Superintendent's reports and data and include:

54 i. District-wide and individual school information regarding data on faculty advisors,  
55 directors, coaches, and sponsors by race, ~~ethnicity~~ national origin, ~~gender~~ sex,  
56 LEP, and ESE;

57 ii. Data on participation in selected activities by race, ~~ethnicity~~ national origin, ~~gender~~  
58 sex, LEP, and ESE;

59 iii. Identification of any barriers regarding equitable selection of diverse faculty  
60 advisors, directors, coaches, and sponsors;

61 iv. Identification of any barriers to equitable participation in extracurricular activities  
62 by students of diverse populations;

63 v. Identification of any inequities in extracurricular activities offered at schools;

64 vi. Recommendations for removing any barrier to equitable students participating  
65 in extracurricular activities;

66 vii. Recommendations for removing any inequity regarding extracurricular activities  
67 offered at schools; and

68 viii. Recommendations for ensuring diversity of faculty advisors, directors, coaches,  
69 and sponsors.

70 3. Scholastic Eligibility in Middle School.-- As stated in the Pupil Progression Plan and  
71 consistent with the Bylaws of the PBCMSAA, the scholastic eligibility requirements for  
72 middle-school students to participate in interscholastic extracurricular student activities are  
73 as follows:

74 a. Eligibility for each middle-school student shall be limited to three (3) consecutive years  
75 from the time the student first enters grade 6.

- 76        b. To be eligible to compete in interscholastic athletic competition for the first grading  
77        period, a sixth-grade student must be a bona fide student in the school which he/she  
78        represents (unless in home education or a charter-school student as explained in  
79        Section (7) below); must have been regularly promoted from the fifth grade; and must  
80        be carrying a normal class load and doing satisfactory classroom work with a  
81        satisfactory conduct record.
- 82        c. Any middle-school student who has been administratively placed will be ineligible for  
83        the first nine (9) weeks of the placement.
- 84        d. Failure in more than one (1) subject during a given nine-week grading period shall  
85        cause a student to be ineligible for practice and competition during the following nine-  
86        week grading period. In addition, a student must maintain a grade point average of 2.0  
87        as well as acceptable conduct as determined by the principal.
- 88        e. A middle-school student will lose eligibility upon reaching the age of 15 years prior to  
89        September 1.
- 90        f. To participate in the first semester of grade 9, a student must have been regularly  
91        promoted from grade 8 during the immediately-preceding school year.
- 92        4. **Scholastic Eligibility in High School.**-- As stated in 1006.15(3)(a) [232.425(3)(a)], the  
93        minimum requirements for scholastic eligibility for high school students to participate in  
94        interscholastic extracurricular student activities, are as follows:
- 95        a. Maintain a grade point average of 2.0 or above on a 4.0 scale, or its equivalent, in the  
96        previous semester or a cumulative grade point average of 2.0 or above on a 4.0 scale,  
97        or its equivalent, in the courses required for high school graduation by s. 1003.43(1)  
98        [232.246(1)].
- 99        b. Execute and fulfill the requirements of an academic performance contract between the  
100        student, the district school board, the appropriate governing association, and the  
101        student's parents, if the student's cumulative grade point average falls below 2.0, or its  
102        equivalent, on a 4.0 scale in the courses required by s. 1003.43(1) [232.246(1)] or, for  
103        students who entered the 9th grade prior to the 1997-1998 school year, if the student's  
104        cumulative grade point average falls below 2.0 on a 4.0 scale, or its equivalent, in the  
105        courses required by s. 1003.43(1) [232.246(1)] that are taken after July 1, 1997. At a  
106        minimum, the contract must require that the student attend summer school, or its  
107        graded equivalent, between grades 9 and 10 or grades 10 and 11, as necessary.
- 108        c. Have a cumulative grade point average of 2.0 or above on a 4.0 scale, or its  
109        equivalent, in the courses required by s. 1003.43(1) [232.246(1)] during the junior or  
110        senior year.
- 111        d. A student who is eligible at the beginning of a semester shall be eligible during the  
112        remainder of the semester, except for lack of attendance, improper conduct or other  
113        valid reasons which may cause the principal to declare the student ineligible before the  
114        end of the semester.

115 e. The student must maintain satisfactory conduct, as determined by the principal. (In  
116 any event, if the student is convicted of, or is found to have committed, a felony or a  
117 delinquent act which would have been a felony if committed by an adult, regardless of  
118 whether adjudication is withheld, the student should be disqualified from participation in  
119 interscholastic extracurricular activities.)

120 5. **General Eligibility Requirements**

121 a. Middle school principals are responsible for ensuring that each middle school  
122 participant in interscholastic activities abides by the PBCMSAA Bylaws and/or the  
123 Florida School Music Association ("FSMA") Bylaws. Eligibility is established at the first  
124 school attended as assigned by Student Services.

125 b. High school principals are responsible for ensuring that each high school participant in  
126 interscholastic activities, as a representative of his/her school, is eligible to participate  
127 under the FHSAA rules. Eligibility is established at the first school attended as  
128 assigned by Student Services. The principal also has the responsibility of reporting any  
129 discovered eligibility irregularities to the FHSAA, the Area Superintendent, and the  
130 Superintendent/designee.

131 c. In addition to the FHSAA or PBCMSAA Bylaws, the following rules shall apply to such  
132 eligibility:

133 a. ~~An Interscholastic Eligibility Appeals Committee (IEAC) shall be established to~~  
134 ~~review eligibility questions which cannot otherwise be resolved;~~

135 i. No student may participate in the interscholastic activities of a school other than  
136 the school to which the student was first assigned for a given school year unless  
137 the student:

138 A. Actually and legitimately lives resides in the attendance area of the school;  
139 or

140 B. Has a transfer approved by ~~the Superintendent's Transfer Review~~  
141 ~~Committee~~ Student Services (however, for any such transfers after June 30,  
142 2003, eligibility shall not begin until one calendar year after the date the  
143 transfer is approved, if the student was playing any sports at the first school);  
144 or

145 C. Has been admitted to a magnet/choice school or program pursuant to the  
146 magnet/choice application process (provided that the student shall become  
147 ineligible for sports at the magnet/choice school if he/she drops out of, or is  
148 removed from, the magnet/choice program); or

149 D. Transferred to the new school under the Opportunity Scholarships Program  
150 or the McKay Scholarships for Children with Disabilities Program under Fla.  
151 Stat. §§ 1002.38 [229.0537] or 1002.39 [229.05371]; or

152 E. Was administratively placed.

- 153           ii. A student adversely affected by paragraph (5)(c)(i) may request a waiver by: 1)  
154           requesting the signature of the principals of both the originating school and  
155           destination school on a waiver form; and 2) submitting the signed waiver form to a  
156           rotating waiver committee, which may either approve or deny the request. This  
157           waiver request form shall be treated as a confidential student record under Fla.  
158           Stat. § 1002.22 [228.093(3)].
- 159           A. The waiver committee shall consist of the following categories of personnel:  
160           one (1) representative from the District's athletics office; two (2) athletics  
161           directors, neither of whom is from the two schools; one (1) representative  
162           from Student Services; and two (2) principals, neither of which is from either  
163           of the two schools.
- 164           B. The committee shall consider whether the student has shown substantial  
165           good cause for the requested waiver, such as a showing of substantial  
166           health and safety concerns (such as the student having been the victim of a  
167           battery at the first school); extraordinary hardship; or transfer under Article  
168           II, § O of the CTA contract as the child of an instructional employee at the  
169           school.
- 170           C. A waiver granted under this paragraph shall not interfere with the application  
171           of the eligibility restrictions in paragraph (5)(c)(i) to other students or to future  
172           situations for this student.
- 173           iii. Principals shall annually review reassignments.
- 174           iv. ~~The student shall be eligible in the school in which he or she first enrolled each~~  
175           ~~school year. The student shall be eligible in that school so long as he or she~~  
176           ~~remains enrolled in that school.~~
- 177           iv. Any student who is found to have falsified eligibility information shall be  
178           ~~permanently deemed~~ ineligible to compete in any public school within the School  
179           District of Palm Beach County for one calendar year from the date the falsification  
180           is discovered.
- 181           v. The Superintendent, Area Superintendent, principal, coach, activity sponsor, or  
182           any other interested party may raise questions of eligibility at any time. Any  
183           question of eligibility shall be presented to the principal of the school where the  
184           student's eligibility is being questioned. If the person raising the eligibility issue is  
185           not satisfied, the question of eligibility may be presented in writing to the  
186           appropriate Interscholastic Eligibility Appeals Committee (IEAC) of the District.  
187           The request must state with particularity the basis for questioning the student's  
188           eligibility. This written complaint shall be treated as a confidential student record  
189           under Fla. Stat. § 1002.22 [228.093(3)].
- 190           vi. ~~An~~ A High School Interscholastic Eligibility Appeals Committees (IEAC) and a  
191           Middle School IEAC shall be established to review eligibility questions which are  
192           not resolved under FHSAA or PBCMSAA Bylaws.

- 193 A. High School.-- The high school IEAC shall be composed of five (5)  
194 members appointed annually. Three (3) members shall be high school  
195 principals appointed by the Chair of the High School Principals' Department.  
196 Two (2) members shall be District administrators appointed by the  
197 Superintendent/designee: one from Student Services and one from the  
198 District athletics office.
- 199 B. Middle School.-- The middle school IEAC shall be composed of five (5)  
200 members appointed annually. Three (3) members shall be middle school  
201 principals appointed by the Chair of the Middle School Principals'  
202 Department. Two (2) members shall be District administrators appointed by  
203 the Superintendent/designee: one from Student Services and one from the  
204 District athletics office.
- 205 C. The Chairs of the Middle and High School Principals' Departments and the  
206 Superintendent/designee shall each appoint an alternate member annually  
207 to substitute on the respective IEAC in the event that a regular member has  
208 a conflict of interest in an eligibility matter.
- 209 D. Copies of the IEAC meeting agenda will be distributed to committee  
210 members a week in advance of each meeting. The agenda may list the  
211 school where the eligibility is being questioned, but shall list the questioned  
212 students only by a confidential identifier code.
- 213 E. The IEAC shall review each questioned eligibility to ascertain the student's  
214 eligibility under the FHSAA Bylaws and this Policy. Before rendering its  
215 recommendation regarding eligibility, the committee shall consider the  
216 written request questioning eligibility and the student's residence affidavit if  
217 relevant; and it may consider other documentation or written and/or oral  
218 testimony from appropriate parties.
- 219 1. If the affected parties both agree with or acquiesce in the committee's  
220 recommendation, the principal will execute any documents necessary  
221 for the student to be in compliance with FHSAA or PBCMSAA Bylaws  
222 and this Policy.
- 223 2. If any of the affected parties (or the parent(s)/guardian of a minor party)  
224 timely objects to the committee's recommendation within ten (10) work  
225 days of the committee making its recommendation, such party may  
226 appeal to the Superintendent. The Superintendent/designee shall  
227 review the documentation submitted to the committee and the  
228 committee's recommendation, may request additional information if  
229 desired, and shall either approve or deny the student's eligibility for that  
230 school year. The Superintendent's/designee's decision shall be the  
231 final decision of the District.
- 232 E. Neither this Policy nor any recommendation from the committee shall be  
233 construed as waiving applicable FHSAA or PBCMSAA Bylaws or  
234 regulations.

- 235 6. **Clubs and Non-Sports Activities.** The minimum scholastic standards for eligibility for  
236 competitive interscholastic participation in extracurricular clubs and non-sports activities will  
237 be the same GPA required for sports participation by Fla. Stat. 1006.15(3)(a)  
238 [232.425(3)(a)], the FHSAA, and the PBCMSAA, determined by the Superintendent or  
239 designee and shall be consistently applied to all schools.
- 240 7. **Home Education and Charter School Students.--** Home educated students are governed  
241 by the same eligibility regulations as all public school students. "An individual home  
242 education student is eligible to participate at the same public school to which the student  
243 would be assigned according to district school board attendance area policies or which the  
244 student could choose to attend pursuant to district or interdistrict controlled open enrollment  
245 provisions, . . . in the interscholastic extracurricular activities of that school," subject to the  
246 conditions in Fla. Stat. § 1006.15(3)(c) [232.425(3)(c)]. "An individual charter school student  
247 . . . is eligible to participate at the public school to which the student be assigned according  
248 to district school board attendance area policies or which the student could choose to  
249 attend, pursuant to district or interdistrict controlled open-enrollment provisions, in any  
250 interscholastic extracurricular activity of that school, unless such activity is provided by the  
251 student's charter school," subject to the conditions set forth in Fla. Stat. § 1006.15(3)(d)  
252 [232.425(3)(d)].
- 253 8. **Recruiting Prohibited.--** School District employees are prohibited from recruiting students  
254 from other schools for any athletic activity, either directly or indirectly, and may be subject to  
255 disciplinary action, up to and including termination for violation of this policy. Any principal  
256 who knowingly allows or encourages recruitment from other schools will be subject to  
257 disciplinary action, up to and including termination. Any employee who knowingly and  
258 willfully withholds information regarding eligibility when questioned by his/her superiors will  
259 be subject to disciplinary action, up to and including termination.

260 STATUTORY AUTHORITY: Sections §§ 1001.41(2) [230.22(2)]; 1006.15 [232.425], Fla.  
261 Stat..

262 LAWS IMPLEMENTED: Section §§ 1000.05 [228.2001]; 1001.41(1), (2) [230.22(1), (2)];  
263 1006.15 [232.425]; 1006.20 [232.60-.69; 232.64; 232.62;  
264 232.63; 232.64; 232.65; 232.66; 232.67; 232.68; 232.69];  
265 1006.28(3)(b) [233.46(2)], Fla. Stat.

266 **STATE BOARD RULES**  
267 **SUPPLEMENTED:**

268 6A-19.002, 6A-19.004, F.A.C.

269 HISTORY: 5141; 2/28/72; 8/16/78; 4/4/79; 5/6/87; 8/17/88; 12/2/92;  
270 2/18/98;

271     /    /03

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Legal Signoff:

The Legal Department has reviewed the proposed revision to Policy 5.60 and finds it legally sufficient.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Attorney

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date