



# 5380 A

## Definitions and Procedures: Contests for Students

### *Regulation 5380 A*

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Effective Date: 01/14/2014

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Review Dates:

### **I. PURPOSE**

The purpose of this regulation is to establish the rules and procedures for classroom, student, school or district participation in contests sponsored by non-district sources.

### **II. DEFINITIONS**

A. "Contest" shall mean any activity that places student work or performance in competition with work or performance of other persons for awards or prizes. Activities may include, but are not limited to:

1. essays;
2. poetry;
3. other written work;
4. artwork;
5. dance;
6. music, either vocal or instrumental;
7. athletic endeavors;
8. representation of ideas, plans or concepts by written, visual, or audio means;
9. examinations.

B. "District promoted contest" means a contest sponsored by a non-district source that has received the review of the appropriate district personnel and is promoted by a classroom or content area teacher as approved by the principal, or by the Superintendent or Superintendent's designee.

C. "Non-district sources" means any organization other than Minneapolis Public Schools, any of its individual schools, grades, classrooms, programs, areas or departments.

D. "Student" means any person enrolled in a K-12 program in a Minneapolis Public School.

### **III. GENERAL PROCEDURES AND REQUIREMENTS**

A. Teachers may promote contests for students appropriate for the ages of the students that they teach, and appropriate for the content area or areas that the teacher teaches, with the approval of the principal or site administrator of the school. The approval of such contests shall not be unreasonably withheld.

B. The principal may limit the number of contests promoted within the school under their supervision for the purposes of assuring the integrity of the educational program and meeting district and school goals.



- C. The Superintendent, or Superintendent's designee, may promote non-district source sponsored contests for students using district communications vehicles upon approval by the appropriate content area specialist. The district content area specialist may approve non-district source contests if the contest meets District criteria.
- D. Teachers shall not judge or select contestants in any stage of a contest sponsored by a non-district source.
- E. Participation in a contest or promotion of a contest in one school year shall not automatically imply approval of participation or promotion of the contest or its replacement or successor in any other school year.
- F. It is preferred that contests based on an examination or performance be administered outside of the regular school day, however, participation in a district promoted contest by examination or performance that occurs during a school day will constitute an excused absence, if notice is given to the school in advance.
- G. Persons reviewing contests shall consider that awards or prizes should be appropriate and adequate in number and amount. Cash awards paid directly to students should be avoided.
- H. Awards and prizes may be either awarded to a school or to an individual student. No contests shall be promoted that result in a prize to a specific district employee.

#### **IV. RESPONSIBILITY**

- A. Teachers are responsible for:
  - 1. reviewing proposed non-district source contests that they wish to promote with their students for conformation with district policies and regulations; consultation with content area leads is recommended.
  - 2. assuring that parents have given permission for student participation in any contest promoted by the teacher;
  - 3. assuring that parents been adequately advised as to the rules of any contests in which their student wishes to participate that the teacher is promoting.
  - 4. assuring that participation in contests promoted in the classroom enhances rather than detracts from learning targets and educational goals.
- B. Principals and Site administrators are responsible for reviewing contest proposals from teachers who wish to promote the contest in the classroom, approving or disapproving participation.
- C. The district content leads shall serve as consultants to individual teachers, principals, schools, programs or other departments in determining the value and appropriateness of proposed contests using District criteria.



- D. The Superintendent, or Superintendent's designee, is responsible for making decisions whether or not to promote non-district source contests as a district-wide contest open to students that promote district goals and enhance teaching and learning.

***Legal References:***

none

***Cross References:***

MPS Policy 1040 (Student and Staff Data Protection)  
MPS Policy 1060 (Flyer Distribution)  
MPS Policy 1070 (Poster Display)  
MPS Policy 1080 (Public Information Display)  
MPS Policy 1100 (Advertising)  
MPS Policy 1130 (Appearances, Interviews and Performance)  
MPS Policy 1580 (Soliciting, Peddling and Canvassing on school Grounds)  
MPS Policy 5000 (Equal Education Opportunity)  
MPS Policy 5370 (Awards for Achievement)  
MPS Policy 5510 (Public Performances by Students)