



5380

Contests for Students

Policy 5380

Original Adoption: 04/25/1967

Effective Date: 01/14/2014

Revision Dates: 08/28/1973, 09/30/1975, 06/12/1984, 01/14/2014

Review Dates:

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this policy is to support the primary educational aims of the schools and the needs and interests of the students with regard to participation in externally supported contests requesting student participation. Schools may sometimes be seen as an available agency for the promotion of a campaign, idea or product. Some contests may support the educational aims of the District and a particular school or school program. This policy is intended to guard the time and energy of both students and staff for the essential purposes of the district and to protect the essential progress of the student's education. It is also intended to protect the integrity of the District as an educational institution.

II. GENERAL STATEMENT OF POLICY

- A. Certain contests will not be allowed to be promoted in Minneapolis Public Schools, including, but not limited to:
1. Contests sponsored by organizations whose constitutions set forth and require discriminatory practices or which engage in unlawful discrimination against individuals because of race, creed, color, age, marital status, gender, gender expression or identity, sexual or affectional orientation, disability, national origin or religion.
 2. Contests sponsored by organizations that require membership in the organization in order to compete.
 3. Contests which involve discrimination against individuals or groups due to race, creed, color, age, marital or familial status, gender, gender identity or expression, sexual or affectional orientation, disability, national origin, immigration status or religion.
- B. Contests or similar activities must:
1. supplement but not interfere with the regular school program;
 2. be beneficial to youth in educational, civic, social or ethical development;
 3. be of a subject that is not commercial, controversial, or sectarian;
 4. not require an entrance fee;
 5. not place an undue burden of time involvement for students, staff or the school;
 6. not require frequent or lengthy absences of participants from the school;
 7. must not use the contest as means primarily for advertising a company name or product.
 8. encourage creativity and excellence
 9. be consistent with content area academic standards.
- C. Participation in contests must be voluntary on the part of both teacher and student.



- D. Activities involved in contests must be:
 - 1. compatible with the basic philosophy and program of the Minneapolis Public Schools.
 - 2. aligned with appropriate academic standards
 - 3. in accordance with Minneapolis Public School policies;
 - 4. in accordance with existing laws pertaining to equal educational opportunities.
 - 5. promote good school-community relations.

- E. Minneapolis Public Schools reserves the right to regulate the number and type of contests offered to students. Contests offered are not required to be offered to all students in all schools.

- F. Written parent permission must be obtained prior to submission of any contest entry to a non-district sponsored contest.

III. RESPONSIBILITY

- A. The Superintendent is authorized to promulgate regulations to implement this policy.

- B. This policy applies to all Minneapolis Public School employees and other District Staff.

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)