

**File: IHGB – HOME SCHOOL AND VIRTUAL SCHOOL STUDENT PARTICIPATION IN EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES**

Somerville Public Schools is committed to creating equitable systems of learning and well-being that will serve all Somerville children and prepare them for success. The district recognizes that closing achievement gaps requires expanding access to out of school time learning opportunities. The district welcomes participation in school-based extracurricular activities for Somerville-based home school or virtual school students if space is available and there is no financial impact to the district.

“Extracurricular activities,” for the purpose of this policy, are school-sponsored activities for which participants are selected by staff supervising the activities, including those teams, both athletic and academic, that participate in interscholastic competition. Participation of students in such school programs shall be limited to home school or virtual students whose home instruction programs are in compliance with applicable Massachusetts law and Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education regulations.

Students receiving home-school or virtual instruction are eligible to try out for and/or participate in extracurricular activities sponsored by Somerville Public Schools upon availability and approval of the Assistant Superintendent or his/her designee provided the student applies in writing and the following requirements are satisfied.

- The student agrees to abide by equivalent rules of participation as are applicable to regularly enrolled students participating in the activity and provides evidence that the rules of participation are being met.
- The student complies with the same physical examination, immunization, insurance, age, and semester eligibility requirements as regularly enrolled students participating in the activity. All required documentation must be made available upon request by the School District.
- The student meets equivalent academic standards as those established for regularly enrolled students participating in the activity and provides evidence that the academic standards are being met.
- The student abides by the same transportation policy as regularly enrolled students participating in the activity.

The School District has reasonable discretion to grant or withhold approval based on factors including: whether the activity is already filled with enrolled students, additional costs that would be caused by the student’s participation, the student’s behavioral and academic record, safety, and any other factors that involve the best interests of the District. The decision of the District shall not be subject to appeal or reconsideration unless it is in violation of the law or a School Committee policy.