

ATHLETIC COMPETITION

The Governing Board recognizes that the district's athletic program constitutes an integral component of the educational program and helps to build a positive school climate. The athletic program also promotes the physical, social, and emotional well-being and character development of participating students. The district's athletic program shall be designed to meet students' interests and abilities and shall be varied in scope to attract wide participation.

(cf. 3541.1 - Transportation for School-Related Trips)

(cf. 5030 - Student Wellness)

(cf. 5137 - Positive School Climate)

(cf. 6142.7 - Physical Education and Activity)

(cf. 7110 - Facilities Master Plan)

All athletic teams shall be supervised by qualified coaches to ensure that student athletes receive appropriate instruction and guidance related to safety, health, sports skills, and sportsmanship. Athletic events shall be officiated by qualified personnel.

(cf. 4127/4227/4327 - Temporary Athletic Team Coaches)

The Board encourages business and community support for district athletic programs, subject to applicable district policies and regulations governing advertisements and donations.

(cf. 1260 - Educational Foundation)

(cf. 1321 - Solicitation of Funds from and by Students)

(cf. 1325 - Advertising and Promotion)

(cf. 1700 - Relations Between Private Industry and the Schools)

(cf. 3290 - Gifts, Grants and Bequests)

Nondiscrimination and Equivalent Opportunities in the Athletic Program

Note: Pursuant to Education Code 35179, the Board is responsible for ensuring that district and interscholastic athletic policies, programs, and activities are in compliance with law. Gender equity and nondiscrimination in district and interscholastic athletic programs and activities are governed by both federal law (Title IX, 20 USC 1681-1688) and state law (Education Code 200-262.4; 5 CCR 4900-4965).

In Mansourian v. Regents of University of California, the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals ruled that a university receiving federal funds can be held liable for failing to effectively accommodate the athletic interests of both men and women even if the aggrieved women did not first provide the appropriate university officials with notice of their disadvantageous treatment and an opportunity to cure it. See the accompanying administrative regulation for factors the district must consider in determining whether equivalent opportunities are being provided.

Education Code 221.2-221.3 (the California Racial Mascot Act) declare the use of racially derogatory or discriminatory school or athletic team names, mascots, or nicknames in public schools to be contrary to an equal education and specifically prohibit public schools from using the term "Redskins" as a school or athletic team name, mascot, or nickname. The following paragraph includes an expansion of this prohibition to cover any racially derogatory or discriminatory athletic team name, mascot, or nickname and may be revised to reflect district practice. Also see BP 0410 - Nondiscrimination in District Programs and Activities.

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The Mountain View Whisman School District shall offer an athletic program free of discrimination due to one's disability, gender, gender identity, gender expression, nationality, race or ethnicity, religion, sexual orientation, or any other characteristic that is contained in the definition of hate crimes set forth in Section 422.55 of the Penal Code, including immigration status, equal rights, and opportunities in the educational institutions of the state.

The district's athletic program shall be free from discrimination and discriminatory practices prohibited by state and federal law, including, but not limited to, the use of any racially derogatory or discriminatory school or athletic team name, mascot, or nickname. The Superintendent or designee shall ensure that equivalent athletic opportunities are provided for males and females, and that students are permitted to participate in athletic activities consistent with their gender identity irrespective of the gender listed on the pupil's records.

(cf. 0410 - Nondiscrimination in District Programs and Activities)

(cf. 5145.3 - Nondiscrimination/Harassment)

(cf. 5145.7 - Sexual Harassment)

Any complaint alleging discrimination in the district's athletic program shall be filed in accordance with the district's uniform complaint procedures.

(cf. 1312.3 - Uniform Complaint Procedures)

Student Eligibility

Note: The following section provides that student eligibility for participation in athletic programs shall be based on the same criteria adopted by the Board for all other extracurricular or cocurricular activities (see BP/AR 6145 - Extracurricular and Cocurricular Activities), and may be revised to reflect district practice.

Education Code 48850 specifies that a homeless student, or a foster youth whose residence changes pursuant to a court order or decision of a child welfare worker, shall be deemed to meet all residency requirements for participation in extracurricular activities and interscholastic sports; see AR 6173 - Education for Homeless Children and AR 6173.1 - Education for Foster Youth.

In addition, Education Code 49700-49701 establish a uniform means of assisting children of active duty military families transferred from one state to another, by reducing or eliminating the barriers to their educational success caused by the frequent moves and deployments of their parents/guardians; see BP/AR 6173.2 - Education of Children of Military Families. Among other things, Education Code 49701 requires flexibility of districts' local rules to facilitate eligibility for extracurricular activities of children of military personnel.

Eligibility requirements for student participation in the district's interscholastic athletic program, including requirements pertaining to academic achievement, shall be the same as those set by the district for participation in extracurricular and cocurricular activities.

(cf. 5121 - Grades/Evaluation of Student Achievement)

(cf. 6145 - Extracurricular and Cocurricular Activities)

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Note: Education Code 49010-49011 and the California Department of Education's (CDE) Fiscal Management Advisory 12-02, Pupil Fees, Deposits, and Other Charges, clarify that districts may not charge a fee for student participation in extracurricular activities, regardless of whether the activity is elective. Such prohibited fees include, but are not limited to, the cost of uniforms, locks, lockers, and equipment.

However, pursuant to Education Code 32220-32224, the district may charge a fee for required medical and accident insurance for athletic team members that is not paid for with school district or student body funds, as long as costs for insurance are covered for those determined to be financially unable to pay; see the accompanying administrative regulation and AR 5143 - Insurance. The district may also charge a fee for other students to attend athletic events as spectators since such attendance is not directly related to the educational program. Districts are advised to seek legal counsel before charging a fee for any activity which may be construed as related to the educational program.

Students shall not be charged a fee to participate in an athletic program, including, but not limited to, a fee to cover the cost of uniforms, locks, lockers, or athletic equipment.

(cf. 3260 - Fees and Charges)
(cf. 5143 - Insurance)

Sportsmanship

The Board values the quality and integrity of the athletic program and the character development of student athletes. Student athletes, coaches, parents/guardians, spectators, and others are expected to demonstrate good sportsmanship, ethical conduct, and fair play during all athletic competitions at all times. They shall also abide by the core principles of trustworthiness, respect, responsibility, fairness, caring, and good citizenship.

Students and staff shall be subject to disciplinary action for improper conduct in accordance with District procedures.

(cf. 5144 - Discipline)
(cf. 5144.1 - Suspension and Expulsion/Due Process)
(cf. 5144.2 - Suspension and Expulsion/Due Process (Individuals with Disabilities))

Health and Safety

The Board desires to give student health and safety the highest consideration in planning and conducting athletic activities.

Students shall have a medical clearance before participating in interscholastic athletic programs. Care shall be taken to ensure that all athletic trainings and competitions are conducted in a manner that will not overtax the physical capabilities of the participants. When appropriate, protective equipment shall be used to prevent or minimize injuries.

(cf. 5131.61 - Drug Testing)
(cf. 5131.63 - Steroids)
(cf. 5141.3 - Health Examinations)
(cf. 5141.6 - School Health Services)
(cf. 5141.7 - Sun Safety)

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Coaches and appropriate district employees shall take every possible precaution to ensure that athletic equipment is kept in safe and serviceable condition. The Superintendent or designee shall ensure that all athletic equipment is cleaned and inspected for safety before the beginning of each school year.

(cf. 5142 - Safety)

The Superintendent or designee shall develop a written emergency action plan that describes the location of automated external defibrillator(s) and procedures to be followed in the event of sudden cardiac arrest or other medical emergency related to the athletic program's activities or events. The plan shall be posted in accordance with guidelines of the National Federation of State High School Associations. (Education Code 35179.4)

In the event of a serious injury or a perceived imminent risk to a student's health during or immediately after an athletic activity, the coach or any other district employee who is present shall remove the student athlete from the activity, observe universal precautions in handling blood or other bodily fluid, and/or seek medical treatment for the student as appropriate.

Whenever a serious injury or illness is suffered by a student athlete, the Superintendent or designee shall notify the student's parent/guardian of the date, time, and extent of any injury or illness suffered by the student and any actions taken to treat the student as soon as practicable.

*Legal Reference:*EDUCATION CODE

200-262.4 Prohibition of discrimination

17578 Cleaning and sterilizing of football equipment

17580-17581 Football equipment

32220-32224 Insurance for athletic teams, especially:

32221.5 Required insurance for athletic activities

33353-33353.5 California Interscholastic Federation; implementation of policies, insurance program

33354 California Department of Education authority over interscholastic athletics

33479-33479.9 The Eric Parades Sudden Cardiac Arrest Prevention Act

35160.5 District policies; rules and regulations

35179 Interscholastic athletics

35179.1 California High School Coaching Education and Training Program

35179.4 Emergency action plan

35179.5 Interscholastic athletics; limitation on full-contact practices

35179.6 Automated external defibrillator, athletic activities

48850 Interscholastic athletics; students in foster care and homeless students

48900 Grounds for suspension and expulsion

48930-48938 Student organizations

49010-49013 Student fees

49020-49023 Athletic programs; legislative intent, equal opportunity

49030-49034 Performance-enhancing substances

49458 Health examinations, interscholastic athletic program

49475 Health and safety, concussions and head injuries

49700-49701 Education of children of military families

51242 Exemption from physical education for high school students in interscholastic athletic program

HEALTH AND SAFETY CODE

1797.196 Automated external defibrillator

PENAL CODE

245.6 Hazing

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CODE OF REGULATIONS, TITLE 5

4900-4965 *Nondiscrimination in elementary and secondary education programs, especially:*

4920-4922 *Nondiscrimination in intramural, interscholastic, and club activities*

5531 *Supervision of extracurricular activities of students*

5590-5596 *Employment of noncertificated coaches*

UNITED STATES CODE, TITLE 20

1681-1688 *Discrimination based on sex or blindness, Title IX*

CODE OF FEDERAL REGULATIONS, TITLE 34

106.31 *Nondiscrimination on the basis of sex in education programs or activities*

106.33 *Comparable facilities*

106.41 *Nondiscrimination in athletic programs*

COURT DECISIONS

Mansourian v. Regents of University of California, (2010) 602 F. 3d 957

McCormick v. School District of Mamaroneck, (2004) 370 F.3d 275

Kahn v. East Side Union High School District, (2003) 31 Cal. 4th 990

Hartzell v. Connell, (1984) 35 Cal. 3d 899