

Resolution 1718R-005

By Director Bonds

WHEREAS, Research has indicated that participation in extracurricular programs increases academic achievement and promotes higher grade-point averages, better attendance records, lower dropout rates, and fewer disciplinary problems; and

WHEREAS, Students who participate in extracurricular activities tend to engage less in criminal activities during after-school hours, develop higher self-esteem, and experience decreased incidences of teen pregnancies; and

WHEREAS, Extracurricular activities also generate positive school spirit and contribute towards the creation of a cohesive student body; and

WHEREAS, Extracurricular activities are inherently educational in nature, providing valuable, practical lessons for success in higher education and work, such as teamwork, good sportsmanship, winning and losing graciously, and the concept that working together creates a product of which the participants can be proud; and

WHEREAS, Through participation in extracurricular activities, students learn self-discipline, build self-confidence, learn time-management skills, become better organized, and learn how to be part of a diverse group of individuals who are all working towards a common goal; and

WHEREAS, In recognition of these benefits, in August 2001, the Milwaukee Board of School Directors voted to waive the requirement in Administrative Policy 7.18, Eligibility Criteria, of a minimum 2.0 grade-point average (GPA) for ninth- and tenth-grade students as a part of the pilot program for the Extracurricular Initiative implemented during the 2001-2002 school year, and

WHEREAS, In July 2002, in recognition of the success of the Extracurricular Initiative, the Board again waived the 2.0-GPA requirement in Administrative Policy 7.18, Eligibility Criteria, for ninth- and tenth-grade students as part of the Extra-Curricular Initiative during the 2002-2003 school year; and

WHEREAS, In September of 2004, the Board revised Administrative Policy 7.18(4) to remove the 2.0 GPA requirement for first- and second-year high-school students, who still must meet the WIAA's eligibility requirement of no more than one failing grade in the most recent grade reporting period, while maintaining the 2.0-GPA requirement for third- and fourth-year high-school students; and

WHEREAS, There are MPS students at all levels who are in need of encouragement and support in increasing their academic achievement; and

WHEREAS, The Board recently has made a strong commitment to promoting equity for all students; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That Administrative Policy 7.18 be revised to remove the requirement of a 2.0 grade-point average for participation in extracurricular activities for all high-school students, while maintaining the WIAA's eligibility requirement of no more than one failing grade in the most recent grade reporting period; and be it

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the revisions to Administrative Policy 7.18 include a monitoring component that will require the Administration to report to the Board at the end of each semester on the effects of this policy on:

- academic achievement and grade-point averages;
- attendance;
- dropout rates; and
- disciplinary problems.

September 28, 2017