POLICY

WATCHUNG BOROUGH BOARD OF EDUCATION

STUDENTS 5880/page 1 of 2 Public Performances by Students

5880 PUBLIC PERFORMANCES BY STUDENTS

The Board of Education recognizes the value to students and to the community of the demonstration of student talents and skills in performances of student organizations in public events. The Board endorses such performances when they contribute to the instructional program, do not interfere with scheduled school activities, and do not exploit or endanger participating students.

Assemblies, public programs, and public performances by students have an important place in a well-rounded educational program. They must, however, be consistent with the educational goals of the schools.

- A. Programs should have both educational and inspirational value. All aspects of human endeavor should be considered including the comic as well as the tragic;
- B. Programs should be varied and appeal to the interests of students;
- C. Wide participation in the programs should be encouraged. Every child should be given opportunities during his or her elementary career to participate in some aspect of public performances and exhibitions; and
- D. Good taste should be demonstrated in the kinds of programs and behaviors shown.

Public performances of student organizations must be approved in advance by the Principal. No student may be compelled to participate in an elective public performance or penalized for his/her failure to participate. Approval for a public performance will not be granted unless the staff advisor determines that the number of students who agree to participate is sufficient to represent the school fairly.

When public performances are scheduled as a regular part of a course of study taken for credit, students shall be informed in advance of their obligation to participate; they will be excused from participation only in accordance with Board policy on student attendance.

No student, student organization, or employee of this Board shall receive compensation for the performance in public of students organized for a school activity.



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STUDENTS 5880/page 2 of 2 Public Performances by Students

Assemblies

In planning for school programs, the Principal and his or her delegates should:

- A. Maintain high standards of performance and conduct in all programs selected;
- B. Make an effort to provide for the expression of divergent viewpoints where political concepts are being presented;
- C. Review all program materials and offerings in advance of scheduling to determine sound educational value;
- D. Seek counsel of supervisors on programs relating to their areas in the process of selection and if a controversial question should arise, consult with the Superintendent of Schools or his or her designee;
- E. Make an effort to increase student involvement in planning and make greater use of community resources as opposed to paid professional performances; and
- F. Take advantage of school assemblies to recognize outstanding scholarship, community service or good sportsmanship.

N.J.S.A. 18A:42-2

Adopted: 19 October 2016

