

The purpose of contests and awards is to promote self-development, to provide recognition for educational achievement, to stimulate friendly competition, to encourage the community and the larger society to be active participants in the educational process, and to develop individual initiative. All contests, whether local, state, or national, should be for the benefit of the student, not for the promotion of a particular product, or organizational creed, and should be nonpartisan in nature. The guidelines for determining whether contests are appropriate, one should refer to the *National Association of Secondary School Principals Advisory List* website.

- Contests and awards are open to all students regardless of sex, religion, race, or national origin.
- Contests and awards do not place undue burdens, e.g., time, financial investment, on students, teachers, and parents.
- Participation should not be dependent on the financial status of the student.
- Contests should be consistent with curricular objectives.
- Judges should be objective parties.
- Participation must be voluntary for students and teachers.
- When there is a question of the legitimacy or ethical basis of a particular contest or award, the principal will consult with representative staff members and the sponsor, and will render a decision and reason for participation or nonparticipation.
- Sponsors must provide all necessary information requested by the schools.
- Schools are encouraged to support and cooperate with local community agencies that meet these criteria.

Board of Trustees

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