

RANDOLPH RAMS

ATHLETICS



STUDENT-ATHLETE HANDBOOK

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Randolph High School
*511 Millbrook Ave.
Randolph, NJ 07869*

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Introduction

The athletic program at Randolph High School has been continuously expanding. We believe our athletic programs are an integral part of the total educational experience of our high school. In order to maintain a program of the highest quality and integrity, student-athletes, parents, coaches, and administration must work collaboratively.

The Randolph School District provides a diversified co-curricular athletic program that offers participation on over 62 teams in 30 varsity sports for both boys and girls. We believe that participation in Interscholastic Athletics is voluntary. Students are not obligated to participate, and participation is not required for graduation. Thus, competition in high school athletics is a privilege and not a right. Athletics will always be viewed as secondary to graduating from high school. This privilege may be revoked if the athlete fails or refuses to comply with the rules set forth by the athletic department in conjunction with academic eligibility, district policies, the NJAC code of conduct, and the RHS Code of Conduct.

Philosophy and Objectives

It is the intent of the Randolph High School Athletic Department to provide high school students with the opportunity to participate in interscholastic athletics. Our goal is to provide young men and women with a highly competitive athletic opportunity, while maintaining a sound learning environment. We believe it is important that our student athletes leave having learned many valuable life lessons on the fields, on the courts, on the mats, in the pools and in the locker rooms. Our coaches and administration strive to provide a positive athletic environment and have our student-athletes leave our program with fond memories. In addition, we intend to achieve the following objectives:

To work with others – To develop self-discipline, respect for authority, and the spirit of hard work and sacrifice. To place team goals higher than personal desires.

To be successful – To remain highly focused on success both in the classroom and in athletics. Athletic success will not always be exclusively defined by wins and losses, but by continually striving to do our best.

Philosophy and Objectives cont.

To develop sportsmanship – To accept any defeat like a true sportsman involves knowing we have done our best. We must learn to treat others the way we would have them treat us. We need to develop desirable social traits including emotional control, honesty, cooperation, and dependability.

To improve – To commit yourself to improving in the skills involved in and those characteristics set forth as being desirable in your chosen activity.

To enjoy participation – It is necessary for students to enjoy participation, to acknowledge all of the personal rewards to be derived from participation, and to give sufficiently of themselves in order to preserve and improve the program.

To develop desirable personal health habits – To obtain a high degree of physical fitness through exercise and good health habits, and to develop the desire to maintain this level of physical fitness after formal competition has been completed.

Athletic Department Core Values

1. Family
2. Academics
3. Responsibility
4. Integrity
5. Teamwork
6. Respect
7. Trust
8. Sportsmanship

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League Affiliations

- NJSIAA – New Jersey State Interscholastic Athletic Association (www.njsiaa.org)
- NJAC – Northwest Jersey Athletic Conference (www.nwjerseyac.com/g5-bin/client.cgi?G5genie=235)
- MCSSADA – Morris County Secondary School Athletic Directors Association
- NJILL – New Jersey Interscholastic Lacrosse League
- NJGILL – New Jersey Girls Interscholastic Lacrosse League

Sports by Season

Fall:

Boys Cross Country, Girls Cross Country, Cheerleading, Football, Boys Soccer, Girls Soccer, Field Hockey, Girls Volleyball, Girls Tennis, Gymnastics

Winter:

Boys Ice Hockey, Girls Ice Hockey, Wrestling, Girls Fencing, Boys Fencing, Girls Basketball, Boys Basketball, Girls Winter Track, Boys Winter Track, Cheerleading, Boys Swimming, Girls Swimming

Spring:

Boys Track and Field, Girls Track and Field, Baseball, Softball, Girls Golf, Boys Golf, Boys Lacrosse, Girls Lacrosse, Boys Tennis, Boys Volleyball (club)

Student-Athlete Responsibilities

Responsibilities to Your Team: A Randolph student -athlete should recognize that he/she is part of group of student-athletes with similar goals. The student-athlete is expected to treat teammates and opponents as they would want to be treated.

Student-Athlete Responsibilities cont.

Responsibilities to Yourself: A Randolph student-athlete should make good decisions in school and out of school that reflect self-respect and maturity. The student-athlete should take good care of his/her mind and body.

Responsibilities to Your School: The student athlete should be an ambassador for the school when traveling to other schools and venues. The student- athlete will be relied upon to be a role model to others in the building with the understanding that he/she is in the spotlight and contributes to the image and reputation of the student body.

Requirements for Participation

Medical Requirements:

- The student-athlete must have an athletic physical completed every 365 days and prior to the start of the season. The physical must be reviewed and cleared by the school physician.
- The student- athlete must complete a re-check from for an season past 90 days of the original physical. This form must also be cleared by the school physician
- The student-athlete must complete a concussion baseline test in conjunction with the athletic trainer every other year. The test is only taken once in a given year, unless the athlete has suffered a concussion.
- A medical clearance from a doctor must be provided and reviewed by the school physician and/or athletic trainer in order for the student-athlete to return to play.
- In the case of a concussion, the medical clearance and the *concussion return to play* protocol must be met in order to return to competition.
- Each injury will be treated following the clearance guidelines, will be specific to the athlete and the injury, and will be handled by the school physician, nurses, and athletic trainer.

Academic Requirements

Fall and Winter Season

A student in grade ten (10), eleven (11) and twelve (12) shall be eligible for athletic competition in the first semester (September 1 to January 31), if they have earned 25 percent (25%) of the 140 credits required by the Randolph Board of Education in

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the previous school year. If the student has not earned at least 35 credits in the previous school year they will be placed on probation and eligibility will be at the discretion of the Principal. If the student does not earn at least 30 credits (the NJSIAA minimum requirement), the student will be ineligible for participation.

Spring Season

A student in grade nine (9), ten (10), eleven (11) or twelve (12) shall be eligible for athletic competition in the second semester, if they have earned 12.5 percent (12.5%) of the 140 credits required by the Randolph Board of Education in the previous school year. If the student has not earned at least 17.5 credits in the previous semester, they will be placed on probation and eligibility will be at the discretion of the Principal. If the student does not earn at least 15 credits (the NJSIAA minimum requirement), the student will be ineligible for participation.

Attendance Requirements

- A student in any grade must maintain a satisfactory record of attendance to be eligible for participation in sports. No student who has an unexcused absence for a school day may participate in an athletic competition, practice, or activity scheduled for the afternoon or evening of that school day.
- A student in any grade must maintain a satisfactory record of attendance to be eligible for participation in school district sponsored programs of athletic competition and must meet the criteria as outlined in the district's 5200 Attendance Policy. A student who is serving a suspension may not participate in school district sponsored programs of athletic competition, practice, or activity while serving the suspension.

Additional Requirements

- To be eligible for participation in the interscholastic athletic program of a New Jersey State Interscholastic Athletic Association (NJSIAA) member school, all high school students must meet, at a minimum, all the eligibility requirements of the Constitution, Bylaws, and Rules, and Regulations of the NJSIAA. Home schooled children are eligible to participate in the high school interscholastic athletic program of this district only if the school district, the parent, and the home schooled child comply with the Guidelines, Constitution, Bylaws, Rules, and

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Regulations of NJSIAA, and the policies and regulations of the Board of Education

- A student in any grade who fails to observe school rules for student conduct may forfeit his/her eligibility for participation in school district sponsored programs of athletic competition.

Student Transfer

Incoming and Outgoing Student-athlete transfers will be handled in accordance with the "NJSIAA Guidelines for Student-Athlete Eligibility". A transfer form will be executed by the athletic department for all incoming athletes. The chart below will be utilized in evaluating the eligibility of an incoming athlete.

TRANSFER CHART
(Summary of Key Rules Regarding Transfers) by the NJSIAA

	Practice	Scrimmage	Regular Season
With bona fide change of residence:			
Varsity level participation	Yes	Yes	Yes
Sub-varsity level participation	Yes	Yes	Yes
Without bona fide change of residence:			
Varsity level participation	Yes	Yes	Yes*
Sub-varsity level participation	Yes	Yes	Yes*

* After thirty (30) day sit period or half of maximum games

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Home Schooled Athletes

All home-schooled students must be approved by the high school principal and be approved by the Randolph Board of Education, in accordance with Board of Education Policy 9270 (see appendix A). Home schooled student-athletes will be required to follow all rules and guidelines of the NJSIAA and the Randolph Athletic Department.

NCAA Eligibility Center and Quick Reference Guide

A guide for college-bound student athletes and their parents may be obtained by visiting [https:// https://web3.ncaa.org/ecwr3/](https://web3.ncaa.org/ecwr3/)

Find out if you are on track to meet academic eligibility and core-course Requirements using The NCAA Quick Reference Sheet:

http://fs.ncaa.org/Docs/eligibility_center/Quick_Reference_Sheet.pdf

Below is a quick look at information that can be found on the site:

- For athletes who receive a scholarship from a Division I university, their initial eligibility will be evaluated under the 16 core course rule:
 - 4 years of English
 - 3 years of Mathematics (Algebra I or higher)
 - 2 years of Natural/Physical Science (1 must be a lab science)
 - 1 year of additional Science, Math, or English
 - 2 years of Social Sciences
 - 4 years of additional core courses (they can be from any listed above or from non doctrinal religion, philosophy or foreign language)Minimum 2.3 GPA Required
- For athletes who receive a scholarship from a Division II university they will be evaluated under the 16 core course rule:
 - 3 years of English
 - 2 years of Mathematics (Algebra I or higher)
 - 2 years of Natural/Physical Science (1 must be a lab science)
 - 3 years of additional Science, Math, or English
 - 2 years of Social Sciences
 - 4 years of additional core courses (they can be from any listed above or from non doctrinal religion, philosophy, or foreign language)Minimum 2.2 GPA Required

Coach-Student-Parent Communication

Expected Communication From Athletes/Parents to Coaches

- Concerns regarding the physical, mental, and emotional well-being of the athlete.
- Notification of any schedule conflicts in advance.
- Notification of illness or injury as soon as possible.

Communication Procedures

- The student athlete should first speak directly with his/her coach.
- If further clarification is required, a parent should then contact the coach via e-mail (it is advised that no contact between parent and coach be made until, the day after the incident/event in question – the so-called “24 hour rule”)
- If the issue remains unresolved, the parent should then communicate his/her concerns to the Athletic Director (AD) and set up a meeting with the coach and AD.

Playing Time and Other Concerns

Coaches are professionals; they make decisions based on what they believe to be the best for all student-athletes involved. While we expect our athletes to acknowledge this, it is understandable that they might have concerns including playing time, their role on the team, issues that come up between players, etc. At these times discussion between the athlete and coach is encouraged; it is the first and integral step to understanding and resolution.

We understand that there are situations that may require a conference between coach and parent. When a conference is necessary, we encourage that the procedures listed be utilized to reach a resolution.

Code of Conduct

In accordance with the Randolph Board of Education District policy 5570, the following conduct is expected at athletic events. These expectations and guidelines will be applied to athletes, coaches, parents, and general fans and spectators.

- Understand and follow the rules of the contest;

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Code of Conduct Cont.

- Recognize skilled performance of others regardless of affiliation;
- Display respect for all individuals participating in the athletic event;
- Treat opponents in an empathetic manner; and
- Congratulate opponents in victory or defeat.

In addition, the following behaviors will not be tolerated at athletic events and may result in individual(s) not being permitted to participate in athletic events:

- Any person who strikes or physically abuses an official, coach, player, or spectator;
- Any person who intentionally incites participants or spectators to abusive action;
- Any person who uses obscene gestures, unduly provocative language or action towards officials, coaches, opponents, or spectators;
- Any school or athletic staff member who is publicly critical of a game official and/or opposing coaches and/or players;
- Any person who engages in conduct which exhibits bias based on race, color, creed, religion, national origin, ancestry, age, marital status, sexual orientation or sex, social or economic status, or disability;
- Schools or school organizations engaging in pre-event activities of an intimidating nature, e.g. use of fog machines, blaring sirens, unusual sound effects or lighting, or similar activities.
- Other conduct judged by the Athletic Director or Building Principal to be unsportsmanlike in character.

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Code of Conduct Cont.

- Any violation of the rules of the New Jersey State Interscholastic Athletic Association.

Harassment, Intimidation, Bullying and Hazing (HIB)

The Randolph Board of Education prohibits acts of harassment, intimidation, or bullying (HIB) of a student (see Policy 5512). HIB, like other disruptive or violent behaviors, is conduct that disrupts both a student's ability to learn and a school's ability to educate its students in a safe and disciplined environment. Our school environment includes our athletic teams. It is important to note these activities, whether they occur in or outside of school, can cause mental, emotional, and/or physical harm. These actions can include, but are not limited to:

- written and/or verbal harassment
- physical harassment/assault
- gesture
- electronic communication

Hazing is one form of HIB. Hazing is any ritual or activity involving harassment; it is abuse or humiliation used as a way of initiating a person into a group or required for a person to remain in a group. Hazing cannot and will not be tolerated or condoned in the athletic program at Randolph High School. This includes on the fields or courts, in the locker room, on the bus, on social media, or at any other activity in which athletes represent Randolph High School.

The Randolph High School athletic department is committed to upholding the ideals of family and a positive athletic environment. Our coaches will not tolerate acts of hazing. They design their programs with a zero tolerance for acts of HIB. We encourage our students-athletes to accurately report any incidents suspected to be a HIB.

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Try-Out Periods

Try-out periods will be held at the beginning of each of the Athletic seasons. For our programs where the number of prospective athletes signed up is greater than the roster capacity, try-outs will be conducted. The try-out will be handled fairly and objectively giving every prospective athlete ample opportunity to display his/her skills.

If a prospective athlete is going to miss the try-out period, he or she must let the coach know well before the beginning of try-outs, and an alternate try-out period will take place as soon as that athlete is eligible for practice.

Any athlete wishing to join the team after try-outs have been conducted will require approval from the Head Coach and Athletic Director. Athletes who have been cut from team may have the opportunity to join another team. However, the prospective athlete may be required to try-out and must get the approval from the Head Coach and Athletic Director. These instances will be handled on a case-by-case basis.

Athletic Department Black Out and No Contact Period

The Randolph high school Athletic Department will have a 2 week period each summer where there will be no athletic activities. During this period there will be no contact with coaches. There will be no practices and/or games. The dates will be established prior to the start of the school year. They will be posted to the athletics website and communicated through the coaches and boosters.

Student -Athlete Awards

Varsity Awards

Any student athlete who successfully meets sport specific requirements can earn varsity status in that sport. At the time the student achieves varsity he or she will receive a Letter and sports specific badge. In subsequent years after receiving the letter and badge, the athlete will receive a bar. Multi-sport athletes, will receive 1 letter and multiple badges and bars to represent their varsity participation.

Ex. Athlete has 2 years varsity in basketball and 3 years in baseball
The person would receive 1 letter, 1 basketball badge, 1 baseball badge and 3 bars.

Student -Athlete Awards Cont.

JV And Freshman Awards

All athletes who remain a member of their respective team, in good standing both on the team and academically will receive the appropriate award for their level of competition regardless of the amount of playing time.

Team Manager Awards

A manager must complete a second full season in order to earn a varsity letter. First year managers will receive a JV award.

Sport Specific Requirements

- **Baseball:**
An athlete must compete in one half of the total number of varsity games.
- **Softball:**
An athlete must complete in one half of the total number of varsity games and/or be on the Roster after April 1st.
- **Track:**
An athlete must earn a minimum of 12 points during the regular season mor place in the Conference or State Meet. The athlete must make a minimum 8 minute mile requirement.
- **Golf – Tennis – Wrestling – Cross-Country:**
An athlete must compete in one half of the total number of varsity matches.
- **Football – Basketball – Boys' Lacrosse:**
An athlete must compete in one half of the total number of quarters of all scheduled varsity contests.
- **Field Hockey – Soccer – Girls' Lacrosse:**
An athlete must compete in one half of the total number of halves of all scheduled varsity contests.

Student -Athlete Awards cont.

- **Swimming:**
An athlete must place in enough races (both individual and relay) to acquire a minimum of 8 points for the team throughout the season.
- **Cheerleading – Girls' Volleyball**
A cheerleader must complete the season at the designated varsity level.

Special Considerations

- Any athlete who becomes a varsity regular during the season may be awarded the varsity letter.
- Seniors who have not met awards requirements, but who participated for two seasons in a given sport, may receive a varsity award.
- The head coach may recommend, with the approval of the Athletic Director, awards in special cases to boys or girls who have not met the requirements.
- All students must meet NJSIAA requirements.
- All awards will be given only if the performance merits the awards (in the judgment of the awarding coach).

Injured Athletes

When a student-athlete is injured, the primary goal of the athletic department is to assist in getting that student-athlete back to a healthy status. The athletic trainers will be able to assist in recommending the appropriate medical professionals based on the type of injury. In coordination with the doctor, our trainers can be an integral part of the rehabilitation back to health.

- All student-athlete injuries should be reported to the athletic trainers. The coach, athlete, and/or parent should notify the trainers of injured athletes regardless of where and when the injury occurred.
- When an injury occurs during a game or practice, either a coach and/or a trainer must complete an injury report.
- The athletic trainer, not a coach, will determine whether an injured player is capable of practicing and/or playing.

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- All injured students must regularly check in with the trainers during the injury period.
- No one is to be cleared to return to competition without an appropriate doctor note and clearance from the trainers.

Health Insurance

Randolph School District requires all prospective student athletes to have adequate health insurance prior to any participation. Randolph offers supplemental medical coverage if medical bills are accrued after the family's insurance coverage is applied for injuries sustained during a school sponsored event or practice.

Discipline

All policies for student behavior adopted by the Randolph School District will apply to our student athletes. The same consequences for disobeying the discipline standard of the school will apply when misbehavior during interscholastic athletics.

Coaches are permitted to establish specific team rules as appropriate for their respective team. These rules must be approved by the Athletic Director. The rules must be shared with the athletes and parents prior to the start of the season. A copy of the rules must be submitted to the Athletic Office.

When discipline is necessary, the coach may administer any of the following options (while not limited to these options):

1. Suspension from a practice or game.
2. Suspension from multiple practices or games, with the approval of the Athletic Director.
3. Suspension from the team, with approval of the Athletic Director.

Parents will be notified of all major disciplinary actions. The coach is responsible for immediately notifying the Athletic Director of any disciplinary actions taken and not approved previously.

There are four basic behaviors that must be reported to the Athletic Director:

1. Disrespect shown to coaches, referees, and parents.
2. Dishonesty in any situation while at school, practices, or games; this includes lying, cheating, and stealing.
3. Insubordination and/or outright disobedience in response to instructions.

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4. Fighting, i.e. striking in anger with the intention to harm another student or athlete.

Any ejections processed by the an official and the NJSIAA will result in the standard 2 game suspension. This applies to coaches, students-athletes, and parents. In cases where the person is removed from the game by an official but not processed as ejection, discipline may still be implemented. The high school administration and /or athletic department will address these issues on a case by case basis and may result in game suspension.

When discipline has been implemented by the high school administration, there will not be additional discipline for the same offense handed out by the athletic department. However, athletes will not be able to participate in games and practices on the same days as a school suspension. In addition, if the suspension results in missed time, any rules regarding missed games and practice times may be implemented.

Equipment and Uniform Returns

Students are responsible for any and all equipment (including uniforms and practice gear) issued by the school. The athletes will be expected to return all equipment at the end of the season, or be financially responsible for any missing items. Athletes who fail to pay for non-returned or overly abused equipment will be considered unpaid and will result in records and transcripts not being released until all obligations have been cleared.

Transportation

Randolph High School makes every effort to provide transportation to and from athletic events for school sponsored teams. Some sports may have specific transportation arrangement. The coaches will review the transportation with parents and athletes during pre-season meetings.

Please note that when District transportation is provided, students may be released from using District transportation **ONLY** with the advanced written notification of permission from their parent/ guardian.

If you would like your child to travel to or from a school sponsored athletic event with you in your own vehicle, you must notify us with advance written permission. Under NO

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circumstances may a student travel to or from a school sponsored athletic event in a vehicle driven by another student.

Seniors Only - If you have a Senior athlete and would like your child to be released from using District transportation to and from athletic practices, please complete the Senior Driving Permission Form and hand it into the Athletic Office. This will only be permissible for local practices.

Please note that for certain sports in specific seasons Randolph High School will provide a shuttle for student athletes to local practice/game sites. You may be required to pick-up your child from one of the following locations utilized by our teams:

- 
- - Freedom Park
 - Brundage Park
 - Randolph Park
 - Heinstein Park
 - Aspen Arena
 - Cossacks Arena
 - County College of Morris
 - Mt. Freedom Golf
 - Ironia Elementary School Field
 - Fernbrook Elementary School Field
 - Center Grove Elementary School Field
 - Shongum Elementary School Field

Communication Links and Sites

Randolph School District Website - www.rtnj.org

Randolph High School Athletic Website - <https://randolphathletics.rschooteams.com/>

Randolph High School Athletic Schedule - <https://www.nwjerseyac.com/public/genie/235/school/31/>

RHS Athletic Registration Page - <https://www.familyid.com/organizations/randolph-high-school--2>

RHS Rams Athletics Twitter Page - @RHS_AD1

Appendix A

District Policy

9270- HOME SCHOOLING AND EQUIVALENT EDUCATION OUTSIDE THE SCHOOLS (M)

Section: Community

Date Created: July 2012

Date Edited: October 2016

The Board of Education encourages the enrollment of all children of school age resident in the district in public schools or in approved private schools so that they may enjoy the benefits of a well-planned educational program and the socialization possible in a group environment.

Every parent, legal guardian or other person having custody and control of a child between the ages of six and sixteen years shall cause such child regularly to attend the public school or a day school in which there is given instruction equivalent to that provided in the public schools for children of similar grades and attainments or to receive equivalent instruction elsewhere than at school. The Board recognizes its responsibility for assuring that every child of school age resident in the district is enrolled in a public or private school or is offered an equivalent thorough and efficient education elsewhere than at school. The Board acknowledges that parents have a constitutional right to choose the type and character of education they feel is best suited for their children, be it secular or sectarian. Home schooling is an option that parent(s) or legal guardian(s) may choose to educate their children. When parents choose this option the program will be carried out in the student's home rather than the school.

In the event a child is receiving an education outside the district schools, the Superintendent may report to the appropriate municipal authorities children whom he/she has reason to believe are not offered instruction outside the schools equivalent to that offered in the public schools for children of similar ages or attainments. If the Superintendent makes such report, the parent(s) or legal guardian(s) of a student receiving instruction elsewhere other than school may notify the Superintendent of their child's educational program status and provide sufficient information to satisfy the district that equivalent instruction is being offered.

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The parent(s) or legal guardian(s) or other person having charge and control of a child between the ages of six and sixteen, who shall fail to comply with any of the compulsory education provisions of N.J.S.A. 18A:38 et seq. relating to his/her duties, shall be deemed to be a disorderly person and shall be subject to a fine.

If a child who seeks admission to this the school district from a program of home schooling, the school district will evaluate the work of the child to determine his/her appropriate grade placement. The Superintendent or designee will objectively evaluate the child's skill and achievement levels, as it would with any transfer student, before making a determination as to the acceptability of credits and/or the appropriate grade level placement.

When children are educated at home and are not enrolled in a school, the school district will not provide any of the entitlements or privileges of students enrolled in the school district unless specifically provided in the federal special education laws. However, the Board upon the recommendation of the Superintendent may permit home-schooled students to participate in extracurricular and / or co-curricular activities and/or athletics on a case-by-case basis. Home schooled students who are granted the privilege of participating in the District's co-curricular or athletic programs are required to strictly adhere to the District's code of conduct and discipline policies as well all policies governing co-curricular activities and athletics. This includes, but is not limited to Policies 2430- Co-Curricular Activities and **2431**-Athletic Competition, except that home schooled students are exempt from the credit/grade-point eligibility requirements of policy **2431**-Athletic Competition so long as they are diligently pursuing their studies at home. Home schooled students shall recognize that participation in these activities is a privilege and not a right and that such privilege may be revoked at any time by the activity advisor or coach, in consultation with the Principal, Superintendent of Schools or Superintendent designee for failure to comply with District rules and policies.

A child educated at home shall not receive a state endorsed high school diploma from the Board of Education.

N.J.S.A. 18A:38-25; 18A:38-25 through 18A:38-31
U.S.C.A. 1401 et seq.