



MEMORANDUM

TO: High School Band Directors

FROM: Elizabeth Grimes Droessler

RE: Participation in the Marching Band Program by Students Not Enrolled in Your School

It has come to my attention that some of you are allowing young people to participate in your Marching Band programs who are not enrolled in your school. Consider the following WCPSS school board policies:

6860.2 - All students participating in interscholastic activity must be properly enrolled in a member school of the district. (Charter Schools are not member schools of our district)

6860.7 - All students participating in interscholastic activity must be present in school for the entire day in order to participate in activities or practices, except where specifically exempted by a physician.

Outside of the school board policies listed above, please consider:

- Inclusion of non-school students or middle school students takes up a slot that could be filled by a student in your school.
- Liability while transporting a student or during participation is questionable.
- How can you verify student eligibility (attendance or grades) if the student is not at your school?
- If you are using any instructional time to prepare the literature – how could these students “keep up?”

In the past – some 8th graders (in feeder schools) were allowed to participate when they played an instrument for which there was no other representation by coming on campus for class as well as after-school rehearsals. Principals and band directors saw this as a good recruiting tool and as a reasonable practice to fill a slot that would otherwise go unfilled. This is an extremely gray area with regard to liability and maturity issues. If you have included any students in co-curricular activities (like marching band) who are not enrolled at your school, you must have had the permission of your principal.

The practice of including students (in co-curricular activities) who are not currently enrolled in your school will not be supported from the arts education office. Thanks for serious attention to this matter.

c: Principals