

# Varsity Letters for Marching Band

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Rahway Public Schools Education Committee,  
Thursday, 5/6/21

# Purpose

The purpose of this proposal is to advocate for the ability of Rahway High School Marching Band students to earn varsity letters. NJ law allows for students that participate in extracurricular activities that involve interscholastic competition to receive varsity letters. Many districts in the region already recognize their Marching Band students in this way. Varsity letters can be valuable as both recognition of outstanding achievement in a competitive activity and an enticement for students to join and/or continue an activity.

# New Jersey law regarding varsity letters

18A:42-7 Participants in certain interscholastic extracurricular activities may earn varsity letter.

1. a. A school district that includes any of the grades 9 through 12 shall adopt a policy to provide that a student enrolled in those grades who participates in **any school-sponsored, interscholastic extracurricular activity that includes competitions in which the student competes against students enrolled in schools outside of the district** may be eligible to earn a varsity letter awarded by the district.

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# What could it look like at RHS?

Band director Mr. Higgins has proposed the following requirements for RHS Marching Band students to earn a varsity letter:

- 1. Completion of two full marching band seasons.**
- 2. No unexcused absences from performances or rehearsals.**

These requirements are consistent with those of many other bands throughout the region. Students in this model would be eligible to receive letters in their sophomore, junior, and/or senior years.

# Schools I have spoken to that offer letters for Marching Band

Elizabeth

New Providence

Mahwah

Metuchen

John F. Kennedy

North Brunswick

Jonathan Dayton

Columbia

Linden

Bloomfield

Westfield

Dover