

EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES AND STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS

Policy Code:

3620

The board recognizes the value of extracurricular activities and interscholastic athletics in promoting leadership and team skills, practicing democratic principles, and encouraging the lifelong learning process. Students are encouraged to participate in opportunities available at the school, including interscholastic athletics and student organizations. All activities are open to all students attending that school unless a restriction is justified and has been approved by the principal. The principal shall ensure that students and parents are notified of the various opportunities for participation in extracurricular activities. The principal shall establish any rules necessary for school- and student-initiated extracurricular activities.

Extracurricular activities governed by this policy include, but are not limited to, athletics, band, chorus, drama, and other clubs with after-school activities. Participation in extracurricular activities and student organizations shall be restricted to students who are enrolled full-time in the school system; however, an exception shall apply for students who are approved for early release during their senior year.

The superintendent shall develop administrative regulations to establish requirements related to eligibility for and participation in any extracurricular activity, including standards for student conduct and consequences for violations of those standards consistent with board policy.

A. EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITY REQUIREMENTS

Participation in extracurricular activities, including student organizations and interscholastic athletics, is a privilege, not a right, and may be reserved for students in good academic standing who meet behavior standards established by the board and the school. Participation in extracurricular activities may be restricted if a student (1) is not performing at grade level as provided in policy 3400, Evaluation of Student Progress; (2) has exceeded the number of absences allowed by policy 4400, Attendance; (3) has violated the student conduct standards found in the 4300 series of policies; or (4) has violated school rules for conduct. In addition, in order to be eligible for interscholastic athletics participation, students must have been in daily attendance 85 percent of the previous semester and must meet all applicable eligibility standards of the North Carolina High School Athletic Association (NCHSAA), the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction, and any locally established requirements for interscholastic athletics participation. Students in the sixth grade are eligible to participate in all interscholastic athletics except football.

School administrators choosing to exercise the authority to restrict participation based upon any of the reasons provided in the previous paragraph shall provide this policy and any additional rules developed by the superintendent or the principal to all parents or guardians and students. The grievance procedure provided in policy 1740/4010, Student and Parent Grievance Procedure, may be utilized by parents or students who believe that a student has been aggrieved by a decision made pursuant to this policy.

B. SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES

1. Students with disabilities must be accorded the legal rights required by federal and state law.
2. School administrators shall facilitate the inclusion and participation of transitioning military children in extracurricular activities, to the extent they are otherwise qualified, by:
 - a. providing information about extracurricular activities to transitioning military children; and
 - b. waiving application deadlines.

C. INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETICS

Interscholastic athletics activities shall be conducted in accordance with all applicable rules and regulations set forth by the State Board of Education, the North Carolina High School Athletic Association (NCHSAA), the board, and the superintendent.

Legal References: Americans with Disabilities Act, 42 U.S.C. 12132, 28 C.F.R. pt. 35; Equal Access Act, 20 U.S.C. 4071-4074; Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, 20 U.S.C. 1400 *et seq.*, 34 C.F.R. pt. 300; Rehabilitation Act of 1973, 29 U.S.C. 705(20), 794, 34 C.F.R. pt. 104; G.S. 115C art. 9, 115C-47(4), -391, -407.5; *Policies Governing Services for Children with Disabilities*, State Board of Education Policy GCS-D-000; State Board of Education Policy HRS-D-001; N.C. High School Athletic Association Handbook; Middle/Junior High School Athletic Manual, available at <http://www.ncpublicschools.org/curriculum/healthfulliving/athletics/>

Cross References: Parental Involvement (policy 1310/4002), Student and Parent Grievance Procedure (policy 1740/4010), Evaluation of Student Progress (policy 3400), Student Promotion and Accountability (policy 3420), School Improvement Plan (policy 3430), Children of Military Families (policy 4050), Student Behavior Policies (4300 series), Attendance (policy 4400), Community Use of Facilities (policy 5030)

Adopted: March 9, 2015

Revised: May 11, 2015; June 6, 2016; December 12, 2016