

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 and shall establish rules, as necessary, to govern such 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 or who fall under special circumstance in Section D of this policy; 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. REQUIREMENTS FOR PARTICIPATION IN EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

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, the superintendent, or 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 failed to meet any applicable attendance requirements; (3) has violated the student conduct standards found in the 4300 series of policies; or (4) has violated school rules for conduct. School administrators choosing to exercise this authority to restrict participation shall provide this policy and any additional rules, including attendance requirements, developed by the superintendent or the principal to all parents, guardians, and students.

B. ADDITIONAL RULES FOR STUDENT-INITIATED, NONCURRICULUM-RELATED STUDENT GROUPS AT THE SECONDARY LEVEL

Student-initiated, noncurriculum-related, secondary school student groups will be permitted to conduct voluntary meetings on school grounds during noninstructional time, regardless of the size of the group or the religious, political, philosophical, or other content of the speech at the meetings, provided that the meetings do not materially and

substantially interfere with the orderly conduct of the educational activities of the school. The principal shall establish viewpoint neutral rules governing such meetings, including restrictions on when and where meetings may occur.

School employees may not promote, lead, or participate in student-initiated meetings but may be present at meetings to maintain order and discipline, to protect the well-being of the students and faculty, and to assure that attendance of students at the meetings is voluntary. School employees may not influence the form or content of any prayer or other religious activity or require any person to participate in prayer or other religious activity. Non-school persons may attend to supervise and assist the activities of these groups; however, the group should remain student initiated and student led and non-school persons should not initiate, direct, conduct, or control the activities of the groups. Although non-school persons assisting these groups are not official school volunteers, they should receive a background screening pursuant to policy 5020.

No public funds will be expended on behalf of the student-initiated, noncurriculum-related student groups except for the incidental cost of providing space for the group meetings.

Student-initiated, noncurriculum-related groups will have the same access to communication channels for publicizing their meetings as is allowed to all other noncurriculum-related student groups. However, school officials may indicate in such communications that the meetings are not sponsored by the school.

For purposes of this section, a noncurriculum-related student group is one that is not directly related to the curriculum. A student group will be considered curriculum-related only if (1) the group's subject matter is taught in a regularly offered course or relates to the curriculum as a whole; (2) participation in the group is required as part of a course; or (3) participation in the group results in course credit.

C. INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETICS

In addition to meeting the general requirements listed in Section A, above, 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 State Board of Education, the North Carolina High School Athletic Association (NCHSAA), and the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction as well as any locally established requirements for interscholastic athletics participation.

Students in the sixth grade are eligible to participate in all interscholastic athletics except tackle football.

Interscholastic athletics activities shall be conducted in accordance with all applicable rules and regulations set forth by the State Board of Education, the NCHSAA, and the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction.

Interscholastic athletics activities also shall be conducted in accordance with all applicable policies and regulations set forth by the board and the superintendent, including, but not limited to, policy 4270/6145, Concussion and Head Injury; policy 4326, Random Drug Testing of Students; and regulation 3620-R, Participation in Extra-curricular Activities.

D. SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES

1. Students with Disabilities

Students with disabilities must be accorded the legal rights required by federal and state law.

2. Children of Military Families

School administrators shall facilitate the inclusion and participation in extracurricular activities of children of military families, as defined in policy 4050, Children of Military Families, transferring into the school, to the extent they are otherwise qualified, by:

- a. providing information about extracurricular activities to incoming children of military families; and
- b. waiving application deadlines.

3. Athletic Participation by Home School Students Authorized Under Policy

Home school students who are dually enrolled in accordance with the school system's enrollment and assignment policies and procedures are eligible to participate in interscholastic athletics if they comply with all of the following:

a. The student must present a home school card from the Division of Nonpublic Education for the previous and current years, as well as a transcript, attendance record, and record immunizations.

b. The student must submit proof that the student has been enrolled in a registered home school for 365 days prior to participation in athletics.

c. Prior to the first date of allowable practice, the student must provide the results of a nationally standardized achievement test, taken within the last year, that indicates the student was on grade level at the time the test was taken.

d. The student must participate in a class schedule that is at least one half of the

assigned school's instructional day. Classes must be taken on campus each semester. These classes will be determined by the principal.

e. The student must pass all classes in which the student is enrolled at the assigned school in order to maintain athletic eligibility.

f. Once dually enrolled and deemed eligible to participate in athletics, the student must maintain continuous dual enrollment. Failure to maintain continuous dual enrollment would render the student ineligible for athletic participation for 365 days.

g. The student must notify the principal of the assigned school in writing of the student's intent to try out for an athletic team at least 10 days prior to the first practice date of each sport season in which the student wishes to participate. Failure to comply with this requirement may render the student ineligible for that sport season.

h. The student must comply with all other applicable North Carolina High School Athletic Association and/or NCDPI rules and regulations regarding eligibility for athletic participation.

A dually enrolled student who transitions to full enrollment within the school system will then be governed by North Carolina High School Athletic Association rules and regulations regarding fully enrolled students.

A duly enrolled senior may be withdrawn back to their homeschool full time for graduation purposes and still be eligible to participate in athletics within the last 10 days of their spring semester.

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.

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-12(23), -47(4), -390.2, -407.5, -407.55, -407.60, -407.65; 16 N.C.A.C. 6E .0204; State Board of Education Policy ATHL-001; *Policies Governing Services for Children with Disabilities*, State Board of Education Policy EXCP-000; N.C. High School Athletic Association Handbook, available at <https://www.nchsaa.org/handbook>; Middle/Junior High School Athletic Manual (NCDPI), available at <https://sites.google.com/dpi.nc.gov/nchealthyschools/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), Participation in Extra-curricular Activities (regulation 3620-R), Children of Military Families (policy 4050), Domicile or Residence Requirements (policy 4120), Homeless Students (policy 4125), School Assignment (policy 4150), North Carolina Address Confidentiality Program (policy 4250/5075/7316), Concussion and Head Injury (policy 4270/6145), Student Behavior Policies

(4300 series), Random Drug Testing of Students (policy 4326), Attendance (policy 4400), Community Use of Facilities (policy 5030)

Adopted: March 9, 2015

Revised: May 11, 2015; June 6, 2016; December 12, 2016; May 24, 2017 (legal references only); December 14, 2020; May 10, 2021; December 13, 2021; June 12, 2023