

## **EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES AND STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS**

*Policy Code:*

**3620**

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The board recognizes the value of interscholastic athletics and extracurricular activities 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.

### **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. For purposes of this policy, a high school student is not performing at grade level if the student's GPA was below 2.0 in the previous semester. If a student's GPA falls below 2.0 during the semester the student will be able to participate if he or she attends scheduled remediation before, during or after school. If the student fails to attain a 2.0 GPA, but shows improvement over the course of the semester, the student will remain eligible assuming he or she continues to attend remediation before, during or after school.

In addition, in order to be eligible for participation in interscholastic athletics, students must have passed the required physical examination, been in daily attendance 85 percent of the previous semester, pass 75% of the class load the previous semester (in a block schedule that is 3 of 4 classes and the student must take a full load of classes) and meet any applicable requirements set by the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction, the North Carolina High School Athletic Association and any locally established requirements for interscholastic athletics participation. Students in the sixth grade are not eligible to participate in interscholastic athletics.

School administrators choosing to exercise the authority to restrict participation based upon any of the reasons provided in this section 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.
3. While the head coaches of interscholastic athletic teams should, in most cases, be members of the faculty, the board permits the employment of non-faculty members in coaching positions with the approval of the superintendent and principal.

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: December 4, 2012

Revised: