

## **Policy Code: 3620 Extracurricular Activities and Student Organizations**

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**

#### **1. General 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. School administrators choosing to exercise their authority to restrict participation shall provide this policy and any additional rules developed by the superintendent or the principal to all parents, 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.

#### **2. Additional Requirements for Interscholastic Athletics Participation**

In addition to meeting the general requirements listed above, 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 percent 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.

A student participating in high school interscholastic athletics may participate only on the team consistent with the gender on the student's birth certificate unless otherwise permitted under North Carolina High School Athletic Association rules and regulations.

***Due to the COVID 19 pandemic a waiver of the attendance standard for athletic participation will be in effect for the 2020-2021 and 2021-2022 school years. The waiver will allow for 70% attendance versus the 85% attendance noted in this policy.***

## **B. Special Circumstances**

### **1. Students with Disabilities**

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

### **2. Transitioning Military Students**

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. Interscholastic Team Coaches**

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.

### **4. Athletic Participation by Home School Students**

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 high school interscholastic athletics if they comply with all of the following.

- a. The student must present a home school card from the Division of Non-Public 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 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. At least one class must be taken on campus each semester.
- 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 renders the student ineligible for that sport season.
- h. The student must comply with all other applicable North Carolina High School Athletic Association 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.

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\(4\)](#), [-390.2](#), [-407.5](#); State Board of Education [ATHL-001](#); *Policies Governing Services for Children with Disabilities*, State Board of Education Policy [EXCP-000](#); N.C. High School Athletic Association Handbook; Middle/Junior High School Athletic Manual (NCDPI), 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), Domicile or Residence Requirements (policy 4120), Homeless Students (policy 4125), School Assignment (policy 4150), North Carolina Address Confidentiality Program (policy 4250/5075/7316), Student Behavior Policies (4300 series), Attendance (policy 4400), Community Use of Facilities (policy 5030)

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**Thomasville City Schools**