

## **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. 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.

Students wishing to participate in any extracurricular activity of an athletic nature, including but not limited to activities such as interscholastic athletics, intramural athletics, running/fitness clubs, and/or hiking clubs, must be cleared to participate through a medical examination within the past 365 days conducted by a licensed physician, nurse practitioner, or physician's assistant. Additionally, proof of insurance and other pertinent medical information must be submitted to the club sponsor(s) on an approved participation form.

In specific cases in which a student has a bona fide religion objection to a medical examination, participation may only occur after the parent/guardian completes a release of liability form developed by the Superintendent/designee.

Students participating in interscholastic athletics must also adhere to any and all

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rules and regulations adopted by the North Carolina High School Athletics Association and/or the North Carolina State Board of Education.

### **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. HOMESCHOOL ATHLETIC PARTICIPATION**

Homeschooled students residing in Martin County may participate in high school athletics provided the following conditions are met. Most of these conditions are specified by the North Carolina High School Athletic Association guidelines.

1. The homeschool in which the student is enrolled must have been in existence and officially recognized by the NC Office of Non-public Education for a period not less than 365 days.
2. The homeschooled student may participate in the athletic program of the high school that serves the district in which they reside.
3. The homeschooled student must be on grade level as indicated by a nationally standardized achievement test(s) indicating the grade level of the student
4. Any student participating in high school athletics must be enrolled in at least three courses during the semester in which he/she participates in athletics. Per NCHSAA rules, the homeschooled student must enroll in two courses at the public high school. At least one of the courses must be taken on the high school campus. The second course may be an online course or a community college course but the student must enroll in the course through the high school. The third course may be a homeschool course but it must be a course required for graduation.
5. Homeschooled students must pass all of the courses in which they are enrolled at the public high school.

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6. The homeschooled student must maintain continuous dual-enrollment at the public high school. Any break in dual enrollment will render the homeschooled student ineligible for 365 days.
7. The homeschooled student wishing to participate in interscholastic athletics must present evidence that he/she passed a physical examination performed by a medical doctor, physician's assistant, or nurse practitioner within 365 days of practices or contests as well as proof of insurance or other required medical documentation.

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), Promotion Policy (policy 3422), 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: January 5, 2009

Revised: November 7, 2016; July 3, 2017, December 2, 2019