

## **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. Student clubs, organizations and extracurricular activities shall be given staff supervision and leadership.

### **Requirements for Participation in Extracurricular Activities**

Participation in extracurricular school 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 5530 – Promotion and Retention of Students,
2. Has failed to meet any applicable attendance requirements (see Policy 6000 – Attendance),
3. Has violated the student conduct standards found in Policy 6401 – Student Code of Conduct,
4. Has violated school rules for conduct,
5. Has a balance of unpaid fees or charges in excess of \$50 that has not been waived or reduced or
6. Has been charged with a criminal offense, in which case the student's principal shall investigate the circumstances of the charge to determine whether the student may continue to participate in extracurricular school activities. The principal may make his or her determination before the student's criminal case reaches final disposition.

### **A. Student Clubs and Organizations**

1. Secret organizations shall not be permitted in any school in the system.
2. Clubs and organizations established and sponsored by outside agencies or groups shall not be considered school clubs and shall not function on school grounds or during the school day unless they meet the staff supervision and leadership requirements of the lead paragraph.

### **B. Additional Rules for Specific Activities**

1. Interscholastic Athletics

In addition to meeting the general requirements listed 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 North Carolina High School Athletic Association, the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction and any locally established requirements for interscholastic athletics participation.

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

## 2. 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. In addition, non-school persons may not direct, conduct, control or regularly attend the activities of the groups.

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.

## 3. Student Performances

Any student or group of students giving a public performance in the name of any school shall first secure the approval of the principal of the school being represented.

Student performances shall be in keeping with the general goals and objectives of the system's educational program.

Student performances may not be given as a promotion of a particular business enterprise or political candidate or political party.

An individual student shall not accept remuneration for performing in the name of a school.

## 4. Contests for Students

Student participation in any contest in the name of any school shall first secure the approval of the principal of the school being represented.

Approval may be granted for an appropriate specific contest which is closely allied to and in support of the instructional work of the school.

## C. Special Circumstances

## 1. Students with Disabilities

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

## 2. Military Children

School administrators shall facilitate the inclusion and participation in extracurricular activities of military children transferring into the school, to the extent they are otherwise qualified, by:

- a. Providing information about extracurricular activities to incoming military children; and
- b. Waiving application deadlines.

## 3. 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 of 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 and approved by Moore County Schools.
- 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.

## **D. Appeals Process**

The grievance procedures provided in Policy 1740/4010 – Student Grievances may be utilized by

parents or students who believe that a student has been aggrieved by a decision made pursuant to this policy.

Legal Reference: 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](#); [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/students-and-parents/rules-and-regulations>; Middle-Junior High School Athletic Manual (NCDPI), available at <https://sites.google.com/dpi.nc.gov/nchealthyschools/athletics>

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## **Moore County Schools**

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