

Policy Code: 3800 INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETICS POLICY

The Board of Education regards interscholastic athletics as a vital part of the total education process. The athletic program at the school shall be used as a means of developing the wholesome attitudes of fair play and sportsmanship, as well as the knowledge and skills in being a productive team member.

The board recognizes the value of 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. 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; (2) has exceeded the number of absences allowed by policy; (3) has violated the student conduct standards; or (4) has violated school rules for conduct. In addition, in order 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.

The types and number of sports offered will be determined by: the interests of students; the sports offered by our athletic conference; the availability of qualified coaches; the availability of sufficient financial resources; and the availability of necessary facilities for practice and play.

In order for a new sport to be added, it must have the approval of the Superintendent, Principal and Athletic Director at the affected school. Guidelines are to be developed that outline the issues to be addressed when considering adding or dropping a sport from the athletic program.

The Superintendent is authorized to develop eligibility requirements for athletic participation, including academic and conduct standards.

B. 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 should 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 REF: 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 REF: Extracurricular Activities and Student Organizations (Policy 3820)

ADOPTED: August 2, 2004

AMENDED: January 3, 2017; June 6, 2017

Edenton-Chowan Schools