

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. Students in the sixth grade are not eligible to participate in interscholastic athletics.

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.

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/>

ADOPTED: August 2, 2004

AMENDED:

EDENTON-CHOWAN BOARD OF EDUCATION