

Policy Code: 3820 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 and shall establish rules, as necessary, to govern such activities.

A. REQUIREMENTS FOR PARTICIPATION IN EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

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 3600, Student Promotion and Accountability; (2) has exceeded the number of absences allowed by policy 4000, Attendance; (3) has violated the student conduct standards found in the 4200 series of policies; or (4) has violated school rules for conduct. School administrators choosing to exercise this 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 4500, 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.

B. ADDITIONAL RULES FOR SPECIFIC ACTIVITIES

1. Interscholastic Athletics

As provided in policy 3800, 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 the sixth grade are eligible to participate in all interscholastic athletics except football.

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.

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.

C. 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.

D. APPEALS PROCESS

The grievance procedure provided in policy 4500, 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.

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), -390.2, -407.5; 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; Middle/Junior High School Athletic Manual (NCDPI), available at <https://sites.google.com/dpi.nc.gov/nchealthyschools/athletics>

CROSS REF: Student Promotion and Accountability (policy 3600), Interscholastic Athletics (policy 3800), Attendance (policy 4000), Student Behavior Policies (4200 series), Student and Parent Grievance Procedure (policy 4500), Use of School Buildings for Community Purposes (policy 2420)

ADOPTED:

Edenton-Chowan Schools