

## **EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES AND STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS**

*Policy Code:*

**3620**

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 enrolled at 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 extracurricular 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 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.

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 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 the policy.

### **B. 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.

### **C. ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS FOR SPECIFIC ACTIVITIES**

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1. Student Government

The purpose of student government is to encourage students to participate in the various activities of school life and to provide students the opportunity to learn and participate in democratic processes.

Student governments may make recommendations to the administration, but they do not have authority to make policies for the school system or regulations for the school. The only disciplinary authority a student government has is recommending removal of one of its members from the council.

2. School-Sponsored Student Organizations and Activities

The board encourages a well-planned program of organizations/activities for each school. The administration and faculty of each school shall approve or disapprove the development of and/or continuance of any school-sponsored, student organizations. Each organization must have a sponsor appointed and/or approved by the principal.

It is recognized that social events, such as dances, are an integral part of school life. The principal at each school may allow school-sponsored dances and/or other social gatherings.

A school may elect to have or not have flags/rifles/sabers/batons/majorettes. All selection processes for these groups must be fair and impartial.

3. Student-Initiated, Noncurriculum-Related Student Groups at the Secondary Level

For purposes of this section, 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.

By contrast, a student-initiated, noncurriculum-related secondary school student group is one that is not directly related to the curriculum. Non-school persons may not direct, conduct, control, or regularly attend the activities of a student-initiated, noncurriculum-related secondary school student group. Additionally, school employees shall not promote, lead, or participate in the meetings of these noncurricular student groups; however, a school employee may be present at the meetings to maintain order and protect the general welfare of the students involved. School employees may not influence the form or content of any prayer or other religious activity at such meetings.

Student-initiated, noncurriculum-related secondary school student groups will be permitted to conduct voluntary meetings on school grounds during non-instructional time regardless of the size of the group or the religious, political, philosophical, or other speech expressed at the meetings, provided that the meetings do not materially and substantially interfere with the orderly conduct of the educational activities of the

school. Membership in such student groups and participation in their activities is voluntary. The principal shall establish viewpoint neutral rules governing such meetings, including restrictions on when and where meetings may occur.

No public funds may be expended on behalf of the noncurriculum-related student groups beyond the incidental cost of providing space for the group meetings.

Student-initiated, noncurriculum-related secondary school student 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.

#### 4. Interscholastic Athletics

The board supports the concept of interscholastic athletics for students in grades seven through 12. Students in sixth grade are eligible to participate in all interscholastic athletics except football. Interscholastic athletic activities, including cheerleading, will be conducted in accordance with State Board of Education policies and the North Carolina High School Athletic Association rules and regulations, as applicable.

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.

### D. FUNDRAISING

High school and middle school student organizations and clubs are limited to one fund-raiser per year. Fundraising by elementary school student organizations and clubs is not permitted.

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), -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 References: Parental Involvement (policy 1310/4002), Student and Parent Grievance Procedure (policy 1740/4010), Evaluation of Student Progress (policy 3400), Student Promotion and Accountability (policy 3420), School Improvement Plan (policy 3430), Children of Military Families (policy 4050), Domicile or Residence Requirements (policy 4120), Homeless Students (policy 4125), School Assignment (policy 4150), North Carolina Address Confidentiality Program (policy 4250/5075/7316), Student Behavior Policies (4300 series), Attendance (policy 4400), Community Use of Facilities (policy 5030)

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