

**EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES  
AND STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS**

1 The Transylvania County Board of Education (the “board”) recognizes the value of  
2 interscholastic athletics and extracurricular activities in promoting leadership and team skills,  
3 practicing democratic principles, and encouraging the lifelong learning process. Students are  
4 encouraged to participate in opportunities available at the school, including interscholastic  
5 athletics and student organizations. All activities are open to all students attending that school  
6 unless a restriction is justified and has been approved by the principal. The principal shall ensure  
7 that students and parents are notified of the various opportunities for participation in  
8 extracurricular activities and shall establish rules, as necessary, to govern such activities.

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10 **A.     REQUIREMENTS FOR PARTICIPATION IN EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES**

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12         Participation in extracurricular activities, including student organizations and  
13 interscholastic athletics, is a privilege, not a right, and may be reserved for students in  
14 good academic standing who meet behavior standards established by the board, the  
15 superintendent, or the school.

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17         Participation in extracurricular activities may be restricted if a student (1) is not  
18 performing at grade level as provided in policy 3400, Evaluation of Student Progress; (2)  
19 has failed to meet any applicable attendance requirements; (3) has violated the student  
20 conduct standards found in the 4300 series of policies; or (4) has violated school rules for  
21 conduct. School administrators choosing to exercise this authority to restrict participation  
22 shall provide this policy and any additional rules, including attendance requirements,  
23 developed by the superintendent or the principal to all parents, guardians, and students.

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25 **B.     ADDITIONAL RULES FOR SPECIFIC ACTIVITIES**

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27         1.     Interscholastic Athletics

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29                 a.     General Rules

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31                         In addition to meeting the general requirements listed above, to be eligible  
32 for interscholastic athletics participation, students must ~~have been in daily~~  
33 ~~attendance eighty-five percent (85%) of the previous semester and must~~  
34 meet all applicable eligibility standards of law and the State Board of  
35 Education, ~~the North Carolina High School Athletic Association, and the~~  
36 ~~North Carolina Department of Public Instruction~~ as well as any locally  
37 established requirements for interscholastic athletics participation.

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39                 b.     Participation by Sixth Graders

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41                         Students in the sixth grade are eligible to participate in all interscholastic  
42 athletics except tackle football.

**EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES  
AND STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS**

c. Students Who Transfer Schools Within the School System

It is the policy of the board that a student who transfers during the school year from one school in the school system to another school in the school system will not be eligible to participate in athletics until the beginning of the following athletic season~~be immediately eligible to participate in interscholastic athletics at the new school,~~ if otherwise permitted under the rules of the State Board of Education.

~~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.~~

d. Home School Students

[NOTE: 16 N.C.A.C. 6E .0207 states that the board may, by policy, allow students, who are enrolled in a home school and whose primary residence is within the board's jurisdiction, to participate in interscholastic athletics on behalf of a school under the board's jurisdiction. We have provided three options for addressing the participation of home school students. The board may select one of the three options below or create its own alternative. The information in the options below may be modified, provided that if the board allows participation by home school students, the board either (1) agrees to cover home school student athletes under its catastrophic athletic accident insurance policy or (2) verifies that the home school student athlete is independently covered by catastrophic accident insurance.]

Before adopting this policy, delete the options not selected and the bracketed text.]

[OPTION ONE – All Home School Students May Participate]

Any home school student whose primary residence (as defined in 16 N.C.A.C. 6E .0207) is located in the school system is eligible to participate in high school interscholastic athletics at the school of the assignment area of the student's primary residence if the student complies with the requirements of this subsection and meets all applicable eligibility standards of law and the State Board of Education as well as any applicable locally established requirements for interscholastic athletics participation.

**EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES  
AND STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS**

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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.

Prior to the first practice date, the student must present a home school card from the Division of Non-Public Education for the current year as well as a transcript that indicates that the student is at grade level, an attendance record, and an immunization record demonstrating that the student has received all immunizations that are required for public school attendance at the student’s grade and/or age level. The student must also present proof of catastrophic accident insurance coverage unless the student is covered under the board’s catastrophic athletic accident insurance policy.

**[OPTION TWO – Dually Enrolled Home School Students May Participate]**

Any home school student whose primary residence (as defined in 16 N.C.A.C. 6E .0207) is in the school system and who is dually enrolled in accordance with the school system’s enrollment and assignment policies and procedures is eligible to participate in high school interscholastic athletics if the student complies with the requirements of this subsection and meets all applicable eligibility standards of law and the State Board of Education as well as any applicable locally established requirements for interscholastic athletics participation.

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 immunization records. 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. The student must also present proof of catastrophic accident insurance coverage unless the student is covered under the board’s catastrophic athletic accident insurance policy.

The student must ~~have been~~ **be** enrolled in a registered home school ~~for 365 days prior to participation in athletics~~. 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

**EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES  
AND STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS**

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365 days.

The student must participate in a class schedule at the assigned school that is at least one half of the assigned school’s instructional day. At least one class must be taken on campus each semester. The student must pass all classes in which the student is enrolled at the assigned school in order to maintain athletic eligibility.

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.

**[OPTION THREE – Home School Students May Not Participate]**

Home school students are not eligible for participation in interscholastic athletics.

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

**EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES  
AND STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS**

173                   communication channels for publicizing their meetings as is allowed to all other  
174 noncurriculum-related student groups. However, school officials may indicate in  
175 such communications that the meetings are not sponsored by the school.  
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177                   For purposes of this subsection, a noncurriculum-related student group is one that  
178 is not directly related to the curriculum. A student group will be considered  
179 curriculum-related only if (1) the group’s subject matter is taught in a regularly  
180 offered course or relates to the curriculum as a whole; (2) participation in the  
181 group is required as part of a course; or (3) participation in the group results in  
182 course credit.  
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184 **C.       SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES**

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186           1.       Students with Disabilities

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188                   Students with disabilities must be accorded the legal rights required by federal  
189 and state law.  
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191           2.       Children of Military Families

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193                   School administrators shall facilitate the inclusion and participation in  
194 extracurricular activities of children of military families, as defined in policy  
195 4050, Children of Military Families, transferring into the school, to the extent  
196 they are otherwise qualified, by:  
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198                   a.       providing information about extracurricular activities to incoming children  
199                   of military families; and

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201                   b.       waiving application deadlines.  
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203           ~~3.       Athletic Participation by Home School Students~~

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205                   ~~Home school students who are dually enrolled in accordance with the school~~  
206 ~~system’s enrollment and assignment policies and procedures are eligible to~~  
207 ~~participate in high school interscholastic athletics if they comply with all of the~~  
208 ~~following.~~  
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210                   ~~a.       The student must present a home school card from the Division of Non-~~  
211 ~~Public Education for the previous and current years, as well as a transcript,~~  
212 ~~attendance record, and record immunizations.~~  
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214                   ~~b.       The student must submit proof that the student has been enrolled in a~~  
215 ~~registered home school for 365 days prior to participation in athletics.~~

**EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES  
AND STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS**

Policy Code: **3620**

- ~~e. — 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.~~
  - ~~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 State Board of Education and North Carolina High School Athletic Association rules and regulations regarding fully enrolled students.~~

**D. APPEALS PROCESS**

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 this policy.

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-12(23), -47(4), -390.2, -407.5, -407.55, -407.59, -407.60, -407.65, -407.70, -407.75; 16 N.C.A.C. 6E .02074; State Board of Education Policy ATHL-001; *Policies Governing Services for Children with Disabilities*, State Board of Education Policy EXCP-000;

# REVISED

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Policy Code: **3620**

259 N.C. High School Athletic Association Handbook, available at  
260 <https://www.nchsaa.org/handbook>; Middle/Junior High School Athletic Manual (NCDPI),  
261 available at [http://www.dpi.nc.gov/districts-schools/classroom-resources/academic-](http://www.dpi.nc.gov/districts-schools/classroom-resources/academic-standards/programs-and-initiatives/nc-healthy-schools/athletics)  
262 [standards/programs-and-initiatives/nc-healthy-schools/athletics](http://www.dpi.nc.gov/districts-schools/classroom-resources/academic-standards/programs-and-initiatives/nc-healthy-schools/athletics)  
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264 Cross References: Parental Involvement (policy 1310/4002), Student and Parent Grievance  
265 Procedure (policy 1740/4010), Evaluation of Student Progress (policy 3400), Student Promotion  
266 and Accountability (policy 3420), School Improvement Plan (policy 3430), Children of Military  
267 Families (policy 4050), Domicile or Residence Requirements (policy 4120), Homeless Students  
268 (policy 4125), School Assignment (policy 4150), North Carolina Address Confidentiality  
269 Program (policy 4250/5075/7316), Student Behavior Policies (4300 series), Attendance (policy  
270 4400), Community Use of Facilities (policy 5030)

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272 Adopted: January 19, 2016

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274 Revised: May 16, 2016; November 21, 2016; February 19, 2018 (legal references only);  
275 December 16, 2019; September 21, 2020; February 15, 2021; August 2, 2021; June 5, 2023;  
276 [DATE](#)