

## EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES AND STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS

Policy Code: 3620

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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

#### 26 1. Interscholastic Athletics

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28 In addition to meeting the general requirements listed above, to be eligible for  
29 interscholastic athletics participation, students must have been in daily attendance  
30 eighty-five percent (85%) of the previous semester and must meet all applicable  
31 eligibility standards of the **State Board of Education**, the North Carolina High  
32 School Athletic Association, **and** the North Carolina Department of Public  
33 Instruction, **as well as** ~~and~~ any locally established requirements for interscholastic  
34 athletics participation.  
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37 Students in the sixth grade are eligible to participate in all interscholastic athletics  
38 except **tackle** football.  
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40 A student participating in high school interscholastic athletics may participate  
41 only on the team consistent with the gender on the student’s birth certificate  
42 unless otherwise permitted under North Carolina High School Athletic  
43 Association rules and regulations.

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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.

87           2.     ~~Military~~ Children **of Military Families**

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89           School administrators shall facilitate the inclusion and participation in  
90           extracurricular activities of ~~military~~ children **of military families, as defined in**  
91           **policy 4050, Children of Military Families,** transferring into the school, to the  
92           extent they are otherwise qualified, by:

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94           a.     providing information about extracurricular activities to incoming ~~military~~  
95           children **of military families;** and  
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97           b.     waiving application deadlines.  
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99           3.     Athletic Participation by Home School Students

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101           Home school students who are dually enrolled in accordance with the school  
102           system’s enrollment and assignment policies and procedures are eligible to  
103           participate in high school interscholastic athletics if they comply with all of the  
104           following.

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106           a.     The student must present a home school card from the Division of Non-  
107           Public Education for the previous and current years, as well as a transcript,  
108           attendance record, and record immunizations.  
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110           b.     The student must submit proof that the student has been enrolled in a  
111           registered home school for 365 days prior to participation in athletics.  
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113           c.     Prior to the first date of practice, the student must provide the results of a  
114           nationally standardized achievement test, taken within the last year, that  
115           indicates the student was on grade level at the time the test was taken.  
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117           d.     The student must participate in a class schedule that is at least one half of  
118           the assigned school’s instructional day.  
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120           e.     The student must pass all classes in which the student is enrolled at the  
121           assigned school in order to maintain athletic eligibility.  
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123           f.     Once dually enrolled and deemed eligible to participate in athletics, the  
124           student must maintain continuous dual enrollment. Failure to maintain  
125           continuous dual enrollment would render the student ineligible for athletic  
126           participation for 365 days.  
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128           g.     The student must notify the principal of the assigned school in writing of  
129           the student’s intent to try out for an athletic team at least 10 days prior to

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130 the first practice date of each sport season in which the student wishes to  
131 participate. Failure to comply with this requirement renders the student  
132 ineligible for that sport season.  
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134 h. The student must comply with all other applicable North Carolina High  
135 School Athletic Association rules and regulations regarding eligibility for  
136 athletic participation.  
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138 A dually enrolled student who transitions to full enrollment within the school  
139 system will then be governed by **State Board of Education** and North Carolina  
140 High School Athletic Association rules and regulations regarding fully enrolled  
141 students.  
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143 **D. APPEALS PROCESS**  
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145 The grievance procedure provided in policy 1740/4010, Student and Parent Grievance  
146 Procedure, may be utilized by parents or students who believe that a student has been  
147 aggrieved by a decision made pursuant to this policy.  
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149 Legal References: Americans with Disabilities Act, 42 U.S.C. 12132, 28 C.F.R. pt. 35; Equal  
150 Access Act, 20 U.S.C. 4071-4074; Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, 20 U.S.C. 1400  
151 *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;  
152 G.S. 115C art. 9, 115C-12(23), -47(4), -390.2, -407.5, -407.55, -407.60, -407.65; 16 N.C.A.C. 6E  
153 .0204; State Board of Education Policy ATHL-001; *Policies Governing Services for Children*  
154 *with Disabilities*, State Board of Education Policy EXCP-000; N.C. High School Athletic  
155 Association Handbook, available at ~~[https://www.nchsaa.org/students-and-parents/rules-and-](https://www.nchsaa.org/students-and-parents/rules-and-regulations)~~  
156 ~~[regulations; https://www.nchsaa.org/handbook](https://www.nchsaa.org/handbook)~~; Middle/Junior High School Athletic Manual  
157 (NCDPI), available at ~~<https://sites.google.com/dpi.nc.gov/nchealthyschools/athletics>~~  
158 ~~[http://www.dpi.nc.gov/districts-schools/classroom-resources/academic-standards/programs-and-](http://www.dpi.nc.gov/districts-schools/classroom-resources/academic-standards/programs-and-initiatives/nc-healthy-schools/athletics)~~  
159 ~~[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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161 Cross References: Parental Involvement (policy 1310/4002), Student and Parent Grievance  
162 Procedure (policy 1740/4010), Evaluation of Student Progress (policy 3400), Student Promotion  
163 and Accountability (policy 3420), School Improvement Plan (policy 3430), Children of Military  
164 Families (policy 4050), Domicile or Residence Requirements (policy 4120), Homeless Students  
165 (policy 4125), School Assignment (policy 4150), North Carolina Address Confidentiality  
166 Program (policy 4250/5075/7316), Student Behavior Policies (4300 series), Attendance (policy  
167 4400), Community Use of Facilities (policy 5030)  
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169 Adopted: January 19, 2016  
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171 Revised: May 16, 2016; November 21, 2016; February 19, 2018 (legal references only);  
172 December 16, 2019; September 21, 2020; February 15, 2021; August 2, 2021; [DATE]