

EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES AND STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS

Policy Code: 3620

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. The principal shall establish any rules, as necessary, for school-~~
9 ~~and student-initiated extracurricular~~ **to govern such** activities.

10 11 **A. REQUIREMENTS FOR PARTICIPATION IN EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES** 12 **ACTIVITY REQUIREMENTS**

13 14 1. ~~General Requirements~~

15
16 Participation in extracurricular activities, including student organizations and
17 interscholastic athletics, is a privilege, not a right, and may be reserved for students in
18 good academic standing who meet behavior standards established by the board and the
19 school.

20
21 Participation in extracurricular activities may be restricted if a student (1) is not
22 performing at grade level as provided in policy 3400, Evaluation of Student Progress; (2)
23 has exceeded the number of absences allowed by policy 4400, Attendance; (3) has
24 violated the student conduct standards found in the 4300 series of policies; or (4) has
25 violated school rules for conduct. School administrators choosing to exercise this
26 authority to restrict participation shall provide this policy and any additional rules
27 developed by the superintendent or the principal to all parents, guardians, and students.

28
29 The grievance procedure provided in policy 1740/4010, Student and Parent Grievance
30 Procedure, may be utilized by parents or students who believe that a student has been
31 aggrieved by a decision made pursuant to this policy.

32 33 **B. ADDITIONAL RULES FOR SPECIFIC ACTIVITIES**

34 35 1. ~~Additional Requirements for Interscholastic Athletics Participation~~

36
37 In addition to meeting the general requirements listed above, to be eligible for
38 interscholastic athletics participation, students must have been in daily attendance
39 eighty-five percent (85%) of the previous semester and must meet all applicable
40 eligibility standards of the North Carolina High School Athletic Association, the
41 North Carolina Department of Public Instruction, and any locally established
42 requirements for interscholastic athletics participation.
43

44 Students in the sixth grade are eligible to participate in all interscholastic athletics
45 except football.

46
47 A student participating in high school interscholastic athletics may participate
48 only on the team consistent with the gender on the student’s birth certificate
49 unless otherwise permitted under North Carolina High School Athletic
50 Association rules and regulations.

51
52 **2. Student-Initiated, Noncurriculum-Related Student Groups at the Secondary Level**

53
54 Student-initiated, noncurriculum-related, secondary school student groups will be
55 permitted to conduct voluntary meetings on school grounds during
56 noninstructional time, regardless of the size of the group or the religious, political,
57 philosophical, or other content of the speech at the meetings, provided that the
58 meetings do not materially and substantially interfere with the orderly conduct of
59 the educational activities of the school. The principal shall establish viewpoint
60 neutral rules governing such meetings, including restrictions on when and where
61 meetings may occur.

62
63 School employees may not promote, lead, or participate in student-initiated
64 meetings but may be present at meetings to maintain order and discipline, to
65 protect the well-being of the students and faculty, and to assure that attendance of
66 students at the meetings is voluntary. School employees may not influence the
67 form or content of any prayer or other religious activity or require any person to
68 participate in prayer or other religious activity. In addition, non-school persons
69 may not direct, conduct, control, or regularly attend the activities of the groups.

70
71 No public funds will be expended on behalf of the student-initiated,
72 noncurriculum-related student groups except for the incidental cost of providing
73 space for the group meetings.

74
75 Student-initiated, noncurriculum-related groups will have the same access to
76 communication channels for publicizing their meetings as is allowed to all other
77 noncurriculum-related student groups. However, school officials may indicate in
78 such communications that the meetings are not sponsored by the school.

79
80 For purposes of this section, a noncurriculum-related student group is one that is
81 not directly related to the curriculum. A student group will be considered
82 curriculum-related only if (1) the group’s subject matter is taught in a regularly
83 offered course or relates to the curriculum as a whole; (2) participation in the
84 group is required as part of a course; or (3) participation in the group results in
85 course credit.

86

87 **C. SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES**

88
89 1. Students with Disabilities

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91 Students with disabilities must be accorded the legal rights required by federal
92 and state law.

93
94 2. Transitioning Military Students

95
96 School administrators shall facilitate the inclusion and participation of
97 transitioning military children in extracurricular activities, to the extent they are
98 otherwise qualified, by:

99
100 a. providing information about extracurricular activities to transitioning
101 military children; and

102
103 b. waiving application deadlines.

104
105 3. Athletic Participation by Home School Students

106
107 Home school students who are dually enrolled in accordance with the school
108 system’s enrollment and assignment policies and procedures are eligible to
109 participate in high school interscholastic athletics if they comply with all of the
110 following.

111
112 a. The student must present a home school card from the Division of Non-
113 Public Education for the previous and current years, as well as a transcript,
114 attendance record, and record immunizations.

115
116 b. The student must submit proof that the student has been enrolled in a
117 registered home school for 365 days prior to participation in athletics.

118
119 c. Prior to the first date of practice, the student must provide the results of a
120 nationally standardized achievement test, taken within the last year, that
121 indicates the student was on grade level at the time the test was taken.

122
123 d. The student must participate in a class schedule that is at least one half of
124 the assigned school’s instructional day. ~~At least one class must be taken~~
125 ~~on campus each semester. Class(es) taken at Brevard College and/or Blue~~
126 ~~Ridge Community College are considered as “on-campus” class(es).~~

127
128 e. The student must pass all classes in which the student is enrolled at the
129 assigned school in order to maintain athletic eligibility.

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131 f. Once dually enrolled and deemed eligible to participate in athletics, the
132 student must maintain continuous dual enrollment. Failure to maintain
133 continuous dual enrollment would render the student ineligible for athletic
134 participation for 365 days.
135
136 g. The student must notify the principal of the assigned school in writing of
137 the student’s intent to try out for an athletic team at least 10 days prior to
138 the first practice date of each sport season in which the student wishes to
139 participate. Failure to comply with this requirement renders the student
140 ineligible for that sport season.
141
142 h. The student must comply with all other applicable North Carolina High
143 School Athletic Association rules and regulations regarding eligibility for
144 athletic participation.
145

146 A dually enrolled student who transitions to full enrollment within the school
147 system will then be governed by North Carolina High School Athletic Association
148 rules and regulations regarding fully enrolled students.
149

150 **D. APPEALS PROCESS**

151
152 The grievance procedure provided in policy 1740/4010, Student and Parent Grievance
153 Procedure, may be utilized by parents or students who believe that a student has been
154 aggrieved by a decision made pursuant to this policy.
155

156 Legal References: Americans with Disabilities Act, 42 U.S.C. 12132, 28 C.F.R. pt. 35; Equal
157 Access Act, 20 U.S.C. 4071-4074; Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, 20 U.S.C. 1400
158 *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;
159 G.S. 115C art. 9, 115C-47(4), -390.2, -407.5; State Board of Education Policy ATHL-001;
160 *Policies Governing Services for Children with Disabilities*, State Board of Education Policy
161 EXCP-000; N.C. High School Athletic Association Handbook; Middle/Junior High School
162 Athletic Manual (NCDPI), available at
163 <http://www.ncpublicschools.org/curriculum/healthfulliving/athletics/>[https://sites.google.com/dpi.](https://sites.google.com/dpi.nc.gov/nchealthyschools/athletics)
164 [nc.gov/nchealthyschools/athletics](https://sites.google.com/dpi.nc.gov/nchealthyschools/athletics)
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166 Cross References: Parental Involvement (policy 1310/4002), Student and Parent Grievance
167 Procedure (policy 1740/4010), Evaluation of Student Progress (policy 3400), Student Promotion
168 and Accountability (policy 3420), School Improvement Plan (policy 3430), Children of Military
169 Families (policy 4050), Domicile or Residence Requirements (policy 4120), Homeless Students
170 (policy 4125), School Assignment (policy 4150), North Carolina Address Confidentiality
171 Program (policy 4250/5075/7316), Student Behavior Policies (4300 series), Attendance (policy
172 4400), Community Use of Facilities (policy 5030)

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177 December 16, 2019; [DATE]

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