

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 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 and the
15 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 exceeded the number of absences allowed by policy 4400, Attendance; (3) has
20 violated the student conduct standards found in the 4300 series of policies; or (4) has
21 violated school rules for conduct. School administrators choosing to exercise this
22 authority to restrict participation shall provide this policy and any additional rules
23 developed by the superintendent or the principal to all parents, guardians, and students.
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25 ~~The grievance procedure provided in policy 1740/4010, Student and Parent Grievance~~
26 ~~Procedure, may be utilized by parents or students who believe that a student has been~~
27 ~~aggrieved by a decision made pursuant to this policy.~~
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29 B. ADDITIONAL RULES FOR SPECIFIC ACTIVITIES

30 1. Interscholastic Athletics

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32 In addition to meeting the general requirements listed above, to be eligible for
33 interscholastic athletics participation, students must have been in daily attendance
34 eighty-five percent (85%) of the previous semester and must meet all applicable
35 eligibility standards of the North Carolina High School Athletic Association, the
36 North Carolina Department of Public Instruction, and any locally established
37 requirements for interscholastic athletics participation.
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39
40 Students in the sixth grade are eligible to participate in all interscholastic athletics
41 except football.
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43 A student participating in high school interscholastic athletics may participate
44 only on the team consistent with the gender on the student’s birth certificate
45 unless otherwise permitted under North Carolina High School Athletic
46 Association rules and regulations.

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

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

58
59 School employees may not promote, lead, or participate in student-initiated
60 meetings but may be present at meetings to maintain order and discipline, to
61 protect the well-being of the students and faculty, and to assure that attendance of
62 students at the meetings is voluntary. School employees may not influence the
63 form or content of any prayer or other religious activity or require any person to
64 participate in prayer or other religious activity. In addition, non-school persons
65 may not direct, conduct, control, or regularly attend the activities of the groups.

66
67 No public funds will be expended on behalf of the student-initiated,
68 noncurriculum-related student groups except for the incidental cost of providing
69 space for the group meetings.

70
71 Student-initiated, noncurriculum-related groups will have the same access to
72 communication channels for publicizing their meetings as is allowed to all other
73 noncurriculum-related student groups. However, school officials may indicate in
74 such communications that the meetings are not sponsored by the school.

75
76 For purposes of this section, a noncurriculum-related student group is one that is
77 not directly related to the curriculum. A student group will be considered
78 curriculum-related only if (1) the group’s subject matter is taught in a regularly
79 offered course or relates to the curriculum as a whole; (2) participation in the
80 group is required as part of a course; or (3) participation in the group results in
81 course credit.

82
83 **C. SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES**

84 1. Students with Disabilities

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

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90 2. Transitioning Military Students

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92 School administrators shall facilitate the inclusion and participation of
93 transitioning military children in extracurricular activities, to the extent they are
94 otherwise qualified, by:

- 95
96 a. providing information about extracurricular activities to transitioning
97 military children; and
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99 b. waiving application deadlines.

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101 3. Athletic Participation by Home School Students

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

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

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130 g. The student must notify the principal of the assigned school in writing of
131 the student’s intent to try out for an athletic team at least 10 days prior to
132 the first practice date of each sport season in which the student wishes to
133 participate. Failure to comply with this requirement renders the student
134 ineligible for that sport season.

135
136 h. The student must comply with all other applicable North Carolina High
137 School Athletic Association rules and regulations regarding eligibility for
138 athletic participation.

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

143
144 **D. APPEALS PROCESS**

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

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150 Legal References: Americans with Disabilities Act, 42 U.S.C. 12132, 28 C.F.R. pt. 35; Equal
151 Access Act, 20 U.S.C. 4071-4074; Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, 20 U.S.C. 1400
152 *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;
153 G.S. 115C art. 9, 115C-47(4), -390.2, -407.5; State Board of Education Policy ATHL-001;
154 *Policies Governing Services for Children with Disabilities*, State Board of Education Policy
155 EXCP-000; N.C. High School Athletic Association Handbook; Middle/Junior High School
156 Athletic Manual (NCDPI), available at
157 <https://sites.google.com/dpi.nc.gov/nchealthyschools/athletics>

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159 Cross References: Parental Involvement (policy 1310/4002), Student and Parent Grievance
160 Procedure (policy 1740/4010), Evaluation of Student Progress (policy 3400), Student Promotion
161 and Accountability (policy 3420), School Improvement Plan (policy 3430), Children of Military
162 Families (policy 4050), Domicile or Residence Requirements (policy 4120), Homeless Students
163 (policy 4125), School Assignment (policy 4150), North Carolina Address Confidentiality
164 Program (policy 4250/5075/7316), Student Behavior Policies (4300 series), Attendance (policy
165 4400), Community Use of Facilities (policy 5030)

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167 Adopted: January 19, 2016

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169 Revised: May 16, 2016; November 21, 2016; February 19, 2018 (legal references only);
170 December 16, 2019; September 21, 2020; [DATE]