

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, **the**
15 **superintendent, and or** the school.
16

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~~ **has failed to**
20 **meet any applicable attendance requirements;** (3) has violated the student conduct
21 standards found in the 4300 series of policies; or (4) has violated school rules for
22 conduct. School administrators choosing to exercise this authority to restrict participation
23 shall provide this policy and any additional rules, **including attendance requirements,**
24 developed by the superintendent or the principal to all parents, guardians, and students.
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26 B. ADDITIONAL RULES FOR SPECIFIC ACTIVITIES

27 1. Interscholastic Athletics

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29 In addition to meeting the general requirements listed above, to be eligible for
30 interscholastic athletics participation, students must have been in daily attendance
31 eighty-five percent (85%) of the previous semester and must meet all applicable
32 eligibility standards of the North Carolina High School Athletic Association, the
33 North Carolina Department of Public Instruction, and any locally established
34 requirements for interscholastic athletics participation.
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36
37 Students in the sixth grade are eligible to participate in all interscholastic athletics
38 except football.
39

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. ~~North Carolina High School Athletic~~

44 ~~Association rules allow students to participate on the athletic team matching their~~
45 ~~gender identity if a formal request is submitted with supporting documentation~~
46 ~~and approved by the North Carolina High School Athletic Association Gender~~
47 ~~Identity Committee.~~

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

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

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

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

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

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

83
84 **C. SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES**

85
86 1. Students with Disabilities

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

90
91 2. ~~Transitioning Military~~ **Children** ~~Students~~

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

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97 a. providing information about extracurricular activities to ~~transitioning~~
98 **incoming** military children; and

99
100 b. waiving application deadlines.

101
102 3. Athletic Participation by Home School Students

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

108
109 a. The student must present a home school card from the Division of Non-
110 Public Education for the previous and current years, as well as a transcript,
111 attendance record, and record immunizations.

112
113 b. The student must submit proof that the student has been enrolled in a
114 registered home school for 365 days prior to participation in athletics.

115
116 c. Prior to the first date of practice, the student must provide the results of a
117 nationally standardized achievement test, taken within the last year, that
118 indicates the student was on grade level at the time the test was taken.

119
120 d. The student must participate in a class schedule that is at least one half of
121 the assigned school’s instructional day.

122
123 e. The student must pass all classes in which the student is enrolled at the
124 assigned school in order to maintain athletic eligibility.

125
126 f. Once dually enrolled and deemed eligible to participate in athletics, the
127 student must maintain continuous dual enrollment. Failure to maintain
128 continuous dual enrollment would render the student ineligible for athletic
129 participation for 365 days.

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131 g. The student must notify the principal of the assigned school in writing of
132 the student’s intent to try out for an athletic team at least 10 days prior to
133 the first practice date of each sport season in which the student wishes to
134 participate. Failure to comply with this requirement renders the student
135 ineligible for that sport season.
136
137 h. The student must comply with all other applicable North Carolina High
138 School Athletic Association rules and regulations regarding eligibility for
139 athletic participation.
140

141 A dually enrolled student who transitions to full enrollment within the school
142 system will then be governed by North Carolina High School Athletic Association
143 rules and regulations regarding fully enrolled students.
144

145 **D. APPEALS PROCESS**

146
147 The grievance procedure provided in policy 1740/4010, Student and Parent Grievance
148 Procedure, may be utilized by parents or students who believe that a student has been
149 aggrieved by a decision made pursuant to this policy.
150

151 Legal References: Americans with Disabilities Act, 42 U.S.C. 12132, 28 C.F.R. pt. 35; Equal
152 Access Act, 20 U.S.C. 4071-4074; Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, 20 U.S.C. 1400
153 *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;
154 G.S. 115C art. 9, 115C-47(4), -390.2, -407.5; **16 N.C.A.C. 6E .0204**; State Board of Education
155 Policy ATHL-001; *Policies Governing Services for Children with Disabilities*, State Board of
156 Education Policy EXCP-000; N.C. High School Athletic Association Handbook, **available at**
157 **<https://www.nchsa.org/students-and-parents/rules-and-regulations>**; Middle/Junior High School
158 Athletic Manual (NCDPI), available at
159 **<https://sites.google.com/dpi.nc.gov/nchealthyschools/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; **[DATE]**