

## 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.

### A. REQUIREMENTS FOR PARTICIPATION IN EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

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

16 Participation in extracurricular activities may be restricted if a student (1) is not  
17 performing at grade level as provided in policy 3400, Evaluation of Student Progress; (2)  
18 ~~has exceeded the number of absences allowed by policy 4400, Attendance~~ **has failed to**  
19 **meet any applicable attendance requirements;** (3) has violated the student conduct  
20 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.

### B. ADDITIONAL RULES FOR SPECIFIC ACTIVITIES

#### 1. Interscholastic Athletics

27 In addition to meeting the general requirements listed above, to be eligible for  
28 interscholastic athletics participation, students must have been in daily attendance  
29 eighty-five percent (85%) of the previous semester and must meet all applicable  
30 eligibility standards of the North Carolina High School Athletic Association, the  
31 North Carolina Department of Public Instruction, and any locally established  
32 requirements for interscholastic athletics participation.

33 Students in the sixth grade are eligible to participate in all interscholastic athletics  
34 except football.

35 ~~A student participating in high school interscholastic athletics may participate~~  
36 ~~only on the team consistent with the gender on the student’s birth certificate~~  
37 ~~unless otherwise permitted under North Carolina High School Athletic~~  
38 ~~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.  
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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.  
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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.  
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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.  
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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.  
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84   **C.       SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES**

85           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.

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

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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

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100           b.   waiving application deadlines.

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102           3.    Athletic Participation by Home School Students

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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.

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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.

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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.

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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.

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

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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.

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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.  
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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.  
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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.  
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145 **D. APPEALS PROCESS**

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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.  
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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]**