

Regional School Unit 73 Board of Directors	CODE: JJIC Page 1
SUBJECT: RSU 73 High School Student Eligibility for Extra/Co-Curricular Activities	
DATE OF ORIGINAL POLICY:	Oct. 9, 1973; May 15, 2003, Nov. 8, 2012
DATE OF NEXT REVIEW:	2017
CANCELS POLICY CODE:	None
REVISION DATE:	July 27, 1982; Aug. 20, 1986
JURISDICTION:	RSU 73 Schools

POLICY:

It is the intent of the RSU 73 School Board to provide a wide array of activities to supplement the educational programs. Because the academic programs take priority, in order to participate in these extra-curricular activities, students must meet standards in academics, behavior, and attendance at school. Extra- & co-curricular activities include, but are not limited to, athletics, clubs, drama, and school-affiliated service organizations. The Principal shall identify which activities beyond those listed are considered extra-curricular for the purposes of this policy.

This portion of the policy applies to all students attending RSU 73 schools in grades 9-12 who choose to participate in school-sponsored extra-curricular activities.

1. Academic Eligibility - Expectations and Procedures

- A minimum of 6 (six) creditable courses must be scheduled each semester to qualify for activity eligibility except for extenuating circumstances approved in advance by the Principal.
- Students participating in extra/co-curricular activities in grades 9-12 are expected to be passing 6 (six) classes to remain academically eligible to fully participate in those activities.
- Students who meet the academic eligibility requirements at the grade checks will remain (or will become) eligible until the next grade check.
- Grade checks will be conducted 8 (eight) times a year. These grade checks will occur in the middle of each quarter when progress reports are submitted and at the end of every quarter.
- The grades that will be used to determine a student’s eligibility will be:
 1. Quarter 1 progress report grades
 2. Quarter 1 report card grades
 3. Quarter 2 progress report grades
 4. Quarter 2 report card grades (for full year 1 credit courses)
or Semester 1 report card grades (for ½ credit courses)
 5. Quarter 3 progress report grades

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6. Quarter 3 report card grades
 7. Quarter 4 progress report grades
 8. Semester 2 report card grades (for ½ credit courses)
or Final yearly grade (for full year courses)
- The Principal or designee will check the list of students who have failing grades against the active extra/co-curricular rosters.
 - Students who are not earning passing grades in 6 (six) classes and are participants in extra/co-curricular activities, will be notified they are either:
 - Ineligible* for the quarter. Ineligible students are any who are passing fewer than 5 (five) credited courses.

On Academic Probation. Academic probation status occurs when a student is not passing 6 classes but is failing no more than 1 (one) class.

During the period of Academic Probation, the student will:

Be allowed to attend and participate in practices, rehearsals and meetings and will be allowed to attend home games/events connected with their extra-curricular activities as long as these events do not conflict with any element of the student's support plan. The athlete will not be allowed to wear any school issued uniforms during the probation.

and,

Not be allowed to travel with teams, clubs or organizations to functions away from the school.

- When placed on Academic Probation, the student will be given until the last school day of the third week of the grading quarter to improve the failing grade to a minimum passing grade of 65. The student is expected to meet before and/or after school regularly with the teacher as well as academic support personnel and to attend all scheduled study halls.
- After this probation period, if the student's grade(s) that created the academic probation is 65 or better **and** the grade check indicates that the student has a passing grade in a total of 6 classes, the student's eligibility will be restored.
- Coaches/Advisors will be informed by the principal or designee when a student's eligibility is restored. Coaches/Advisors must await confirmation from the principal or designee before allowing students on academic probation to resume participation in competition or performances.
- If the student's grades **are not** up to standard (65 in previously failing class[es] and 6 passing grades) at the end of the probation period, the principal or designee will remove the student from the extra or co-curricular activity in which he/she has been involved.

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Eligibility at the start of the Fall Sports Season

- A freshman entering SMHS will be allowed to participate in fall activities. Continued eligibility will be determined at the first progress report grade check.
- Students entering grades 10-12 who failed to pass 6 courses at the end of the year will be either **ineligible** (passing fewer than 5) or on **academic probation** (passing 5) for the fall. For the purpose of determining eligibility, the final course grades and the semester grades for a semester course will be used.

Ineligibility or Probation at Qtr. 4 and Summer Credit Recovery

- A student who enrolls in an approved summer credit recovery course and successfully completes (passing grade and credit earned as determined by the instructor) and, who submits documentation of this to the principal or designee prior to the beginning of the fall season, will be allowed to participate fully in a fall activity. Students in this circumstance will still have their grades checked at the first progress report. At that time, 6 passing grades must exist, or the student will be placed on academic probation.
- A student who failed **more than one course** at the end of the previous school year and did not make it up as described above may not try out and/or is considered ineligible. If a student who failed more than one course as of the end of the previous school year makes up a course failure in summer school (or in an approved credit recovery program) that reduces the number of failures to one, they can try out and/or practice under Academic Probation status.

General Information for participants and parents

- No special privileges such as extra examinations, delayed marks, make-up opportunities, delayed disciplinary action or other favors shall be granted to athletes unless they are already part of a practice for all students.
- A suspension from school means that the student cannot practice or play for the duration of the suspension.
- Upon entrance into grade 9, students will have no more than eight (8) consecutive semesters in which to be eligible to compete in interscholastic and/or other school related competitive events.
- Upon enrollment, all transfer students in grades 9, 10, 11 and 12 are subject to all MPA rules and regulations pertaining to eligibility. (All members of grade 9 will be eligible for the first quarter of grade 9.)
- In order to try out and/or participate in any co-curricular activity, students must be enrolled as a full-time student. RSU 73 authorized Home School students are also eligible to participate.

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- All participants of interscholastic sports and co-curricular activities will be held accountable to the same standards for eligibility/participation.
- A student with incomplete grades at the end of a marking period will have ten (10) school days to make up the incompletes. Except in extenuating circumstances authorized by the principal, incompletes after the (10) day period will deem the student ineligible for the following ranking period.

2. Conduct Eligibility

Consequences for unacceptable behavior at school will take priority over any extra-curricular activity.

A. Suspension

A student serving a school suspension (out of school or in school) will not be eligible to participate in any extra-curricular activities until the period of suspension concludes. Once this period concludes, the student will be eligible to participate fully in extra-curricular activities unless the Principal specifically identifies a different course of action.

Students suspended from school are prohibited from entering RSU 73 property during their period of suspension.

B. Detention

Detention will take priority over extra-curricular activities. A student serving detention must serve on the day prescribed by the Principal or designee. If detention conflicts with any extra-curricular activity, the student will not participate on that day.

Students who miss travel with their team, club, or organization because of detention may not participate with that team, club, or organization on that day. The student is not permitted to travel to the away game in a private vehicle after detention has been served to be eligible to play that day. Students transported by private vehicles to away games on days when a detention or suspension has been served may not sit with the team on the team bench during the competition.

3. Attendance Eligibility

Students must be present for the entire day in which extra/co-curricular activities, including practices, rehearsals, or competitions are taking place. A student who is unable to attend school and classes on the day of an extra-curricular activity will not be eligible to participate in that activity on that day.

The only exceptions to this expectation would be compelling circumstances, such as a family emergency, a physician's visit, a pre-approved educational leave, or an observation of a recognized religious holiday. Such matters will be considered by the Principal on a case-by-case basis if they are verified by a note from parents, doctors, colleges etc.

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Physical Examination for Sports

Athletes in grades 9-12 shall have an initial physical examination prior to participation in an interscholastic sport and EVERY OTHER YEAR, thereafter. Physical examinations are to be done by their own physician. A school physical form should be filled out by the student’s physician, returned to the school nurse, and kept in the student’s health record. The school nurse will report any identified medical problems to the Principal responsible for that student. Information regarding a student’s wellness, precautions, and restrictions during physical education or school athletics should be given to the coach, athletic director or physical education teacher in writing.

Insurance

All athletes *must* present evidence of insurance prior to the first practice of the sport in which they wish to participate. Students will be provided the opportunity to purchase an accident insurance plan.

Standards of Conduct & Citizenship

The high school participant must always keep in mind that an athletic contest and activity is designed and conducted to promote the physical, mental, social and emotional well being of the individual. The participant must also realize that it is a privilege to participate in his/her school’s activities program and he/she must remember that they are representing the school, his/her family, school and community both on and away from the athletic and activity venues.

When participants are removed from activity for unacceptable or unsportsmanlike conduct they will not be allowed to participate in the next MPA countable contest. Subsequent removal in the same season results in dismissal from the team for the remainder of the season.

Transferring to Another Sport

Within ten practice days of the beginning of a sport and after an athlete-coach conference, an athlete may transfer to a different athletic team provided the initial coach approves the transfer.

Participation in two (2) athletic teams simultaneously is not allowed.

Practice Attendance

An unexcused absence from practice will suspend the student-athlete for the next contest. Student-Athletes must notify the Athletic Director or Head Coach before the end of the day if tardiness or absence from practice is anticipated.

Dress Code

All Team Members making trips will dress appropriately. Each varsity coach will determine the appropriate attire for team travel. The Administration recognizes that each sport season varies in travel attire and that effort will be made to adhere to strict guidelines with regard to appropriate dress.

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Gambling

When an athlete is found to be wagering on the outcome of high school athletic teams he/she will be suspended for the remainder of that sport season, and will face disciplinary and/or legal action.

Team Transportation

Co-curricular students are expected to travel to and from all contests with their respective teams on the school provided transportation. Coaches/Advisors may release students only to the Parent/Guardian after the Parent/Guardian has submitted a written request to the coach/advisor. Examples of approval will be for extenuating circumstance such as family vacations/excursions following contests, college visits, injuries, or attendance at other school related functions.

Adopted: November 8, 2012