

SUBJECT: ELIGIBILITY FOR PARTICIPATION IN EXTRACURRICULAR ATHLETIC ACTIVITIES

Date of Original Policy: May 27, 2021
 Date of Next Review: 2024
 Cancels Policy Code: None
 Revision Date:

JURISDICTION: RSU 73 Schools

POLICY: ELIGIBILITY FOR PARTICIPATION IN EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES AND CO-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

All students are encouraged to participate in extracurricular activities and co-curricular activities sponsored by RSU 73. These activities offer students the opportunity to learn new skills, to compete in a variety of sports, and co-curricular activities, to experience being part of a team, to develop character, positive attitudes and self-discipline, to demonstrate leadership, and to realize personal accomplishments.

Participation in extracurricular activities and co-curricular activities is a privilege that carries with it responsibilities to self, classmates, school, and community. Participation is entirely voluntary.

While the Board recognizes the importance of extracurricular and co-curricular activities to students, the schools, and the community, it is the Board's belief that participation in extracurricular and co-curricular activities should not interfere with student learning and academic progress. The Board has established the following eligibility standards to support the well-being of students and the integrity of the schools' extracurricular athletic and co-curricular programs.

ACADEMIC ELIGIBILITY

In order to participate in extracurricular and co-curricular activities (including try-outs, practices, scrimmages, exhibition games, competitions, tournaments, or other activities):

1. For high school students this means the student must be enrolled in a minimum of six (6) courses each quarter. Home school and/or Charter School students must follow MPA guidelines for eligibility.
2. HighSchool: Eligibility will be determined by academic grading period. The High school will review eligibility at the progress report benchmark of each quarter and at the end of each quarter. For the purpose of determining eligibility for the first quarter of the year, the reference point will be the fourth quarter of the previous year.
3. MiddleSchool: At the middle level, students' eligibility will be reviewed every two weeks.
4. High School: A student must have earned passing grades in graduation required courses, as determined at the end of the previous grading period.
5. Academic deficiencies in the last grading period may be made up through approved summer educational activities.
6. At the high school level, ineligible students will receive notification at the end of the quarter and progress report and will develop an individual plan to return to eligible status. (See, Flowchart High School Eligibility Procedure for Athletics/Co-curricular).
7. High school students with "incompletes" at the end of the final quarter of the school year will have two weeks after report cards are issued to complete work. If the student has earned a passing grade, eligibility will be restored.

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8. Middle School: An academically ineligible student may not participate in performances, scrimmages, or competition; may not sit with the team or group at home or away competitions or travel with the team or group.
9. High School: An academically ineligible student may not participate in performances, scrimmages or competition; may not travel with the team or group.
 - a. Students in grades 6 -12 who are placed on academic probation may practice with their team during the designated probationary period, as determined by school administration. An individual plan to return to play will be created and completed before taken off the probationary designation.
10. An academically ineligible student may try out for a sport or activity that will begin in the next grading period.
11. High School: Incoming freshmen will be considered eligible until the end of the first progress report eligibility check.
12. Eligibility of transfer students will be determined by the principal and, for interscholastic activities, the principal and/or athletic director.

SPORTS PHYSICALS AND INSURANCE

Because of the relationship between athletics and student health and safety, students who wish to participate in middle school or high school athletics are required to have a physical examination and medical approval before doing so. The physical examination must have been given within 2 years prior to participation. Thereafter, students participating in athletics must complete a pre-participation physical evaluation form each year. These forms will be reviewed by the school nurse, who may, after reviewing a form, refer the student to their health care provider for more extensive examination. A student whose health status is questionable and has been referred for further examination will not be allowed to participate in practice or competition until they have been examined and medically approved for participation.

A student who suffers from serious illness or injury must obtain "return to play" clearance from their health care provider before further participation in athletics is allowed.

All students must demonstrate evidence of health insurance coverage before participating in athletic activities. If the student is not insured by a family insurance policy, school insurance will be available at the student's expense.

CONCUSSION INFORMATION AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Students who wish to try out or participate in extracurricular and co-curricular activities will be provided with the Board's policy on management of concussions and other head injuries and information concerning the risks and signs of concussion, including an acknowledgement form which must be signed and returned to the coach prior to trying out for participation in the activity.

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PARENT/GUARDIAN PERMISSION FOR STUDENT ATHLETES

Before participating in the tryout or first practice, a student must provide their coach with:

1. A permission form signed by their parent(s) or guardian(s)
2. A parent/guardian signed form acknowledging and accepting the risk of injury that may occur as a result of participation
3. A medical emergency card by which parent(s)/guardian(s) give their permission for the student to be treated by medical personnel in the event of injury

ATTENDANCE STANDARDS

A student must attend school the entire day and may not participate unless the principal has approved the absence or dismissal. Participation in any weekend activity is dependent upon attendance on Friday.

CONDUCT STANDARDS

The Superintendent / designee shall be responsible for enforcing eligibility standards prescribed in this policy. The Superintendent / designee may develop and implement other conduct rules for student athletes and participants in other extracurricular and co-curricular activities so long as they are consistent with this and other RSU 73 policies.

Students participating in interscholastic athletics and other extracurricular and co-curricular activities shall be subject to all such conduct rules, and the consequences for violating them, as well as all other rules affecting the student body.

NOTIFICATION OF POLICY

The Superintendent / designee shall be responsible for notifying students and parent(s)/guardian(s) of the eligibility standards articulated in this policy through the student handbook, athletic code, parent/guardian and participant meetings, and/or other means.

Cross Reference: JJA - Student Extracurricular and Co-Curricular Code of Conduct
 JJIF - Management of Concussions and Other Head Injuries

Adopted: May 27, 2021

Revised: