

EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES AND STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS

Policy Code:

3620

The Caldwell County Board of Education recognizes the value of interscholastic athletics and extracurricular activities in promoting leadership and team skills, practicing democratic principles, and encouraging the lifelong learning process. Students are encouraged to participate in opportunities available at the school, including interscholastic athletics and student organizations. All activities are open to all students attending that school unless a restriction is justified and has been approved by the principal. The principal shall ensure that students and parents are notified of the various opportunities for participation in extracurricular activities. The principal shall establish any rules necessary for school- and student-initiated extracurricular activities.

The Superintendent shall establish an Athletic Steering Committee to develop school-level policies governing participation and offerings. Such policies shall be submitted to the Superintendent for Board approval.

A. EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITY REQUIREMENTS

Participation in extracurricular activities, including student organizations and interscholastic athletics, is a privilege, not a right, and may be reserved for students in good academic standing who meet behavior standards established by the Board and the school. Participation in extracurricular activities may be restricted if a student (1) is not performing at grade level as provided in policy 3400, Evaluation of Student Progress; (2) has exceeded the number of absences allowed by policy 4400, Attendance; (3) has violated the student conduct standards found in the 4300 series of policies; or (4) has violated school rules for conduct. In addition, in order to be eligible for interscholastic athletics participation, students must have been in daily attendance 85 percent of the previous semester and must meet all applicable eligibility standards of the North Carolina High School Athletic Association, the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction, and the requirements for interscholastic athletics participation established in section B of policy 3621, Student Athletic Eligibility. Students in the sixth grade are eligible to try out for all interscholastic athletics except football.

Honorary academic organizations such as the BETA Club require a 3.5 grade point average for admission. National honor societies shall follow national guidelines.

School administrators choosing to exercise the authority to restrict participation based upon any of the reasons provided in the previous paragraphs shall provide this policy and any additional rules developed by the Superintendent or the principal to all parents or guardians and students. The grievance procedure provided in policy 1740/4010, Student and Parent Grievance Procedure, may be utilized by parents or students who believe that a student has been aggrieved by a decision made pursuant to this policy.

Student clubs and organizations shall:

1. Be organized by the school or school system;
2. Be supervised by school personnel or appropriate persons appointed by the principal;
3. Composed solely of students;
4. Open to all students who meet the criteria for membership and wish to participate, subject to a membership plan to be reviewed by the principal annually and maintained in the main office;
5. Hold the majority of their meetings at school;
6. Establish goals that are educationally sound and/or of interest to the school or community; and
7. Comply with any regulations and procedures promulgated by the principal or Superintendent.

B. SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES

1. Students with disabilities shall be accorded the legal rights required by federal and state law.
2. The opportunity to participate in extracurricular activities should not be based on a student's ability to pay for equipment or insurance. Schools shall provide sufficient notice to parents of resources available for low-income students, along with a simple, confidential process for notifying the school of the need for assistance.
3. School administrators shall facilitate the inclusion and participation of transitioning military children in extracurricular activities, to the extent they are otherwise qualified, by:
 - a. providing information about extracurricular activities to transitioning military children; and
 - b. waiving application deadlines.

Legal References: Americans with Disabilities Act, 42 U.S.C. 12132, 28 C.F.R. pt. 35; Equal Access Act, 20 U.S.C. 4071-4074; Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, 20 U.S.C. 1400 *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; G.S. 115C art. 9, 115C-47(4), -391, -407.5; *Policies Governing Services for Children with Disabilities*, State Board of Education Policy GCS-D-000; State Board of Education Policy HRS-D-001; N.C. High School Athletic Association Handbook; Middle/Junior High School

Athletic Manual, available at

<http://www.ncpublicschools.org/curriculum/healthfulliving/athletics/>

Cross References: Parental Involvement (policy 1310/4002), Student and Parent Grievance Procedure (policy 1740/4010), Evaluation of Student Progress (policy 3400), Student Promotion and Accountability (policy 3420), School Improvement Plan (policy 3430), Children of Military Families (policy 4050), Student Behavior Policies (4300 series), Attendance (policy 4400), Community Use of Facilities (policy 5030)

Adopted: April 8, 2013

Revised: July 13, 2015; July 11, 2016; January 9, 2017