

Regulation 503.04-R(1): Good Conduct Rule

Original Adopted Date: 05/01/2022 | **Last Reviewed Date:** 05/01/2022

The following activities are covered by the board's policy and these rules: Athletics, instrumental and vocal music contests, drama productions, speech contests, debate contests, cheerleading and drill team.

Direct extensions of the curriculum that are not extra-curricular contests or competition will not be subject to the Good Conduct Code.

To retain eligibility for participation in the Dallas Center-Grimes High School extra-curricular or co-curricular activities, students must conduct themselves as good citizens both in and out of school at all times. Students who represent the school in an activity are expected to serve as good role models to other students and to the members of the community.

A student who has allegedly violated the Good Conduct Code shall be confronted with the allegation, the basis of the allegation, and given an opportunity to tell his/her side. A student who is found to have violated the Good Conduct Code will be deemed ineligible for a period of time, as described below. A student may lose eligibility under the Good Conduct Code for any of the following behaviors:

- Possession, use, sale, manufacture, distribution, or purchase of vape/tobacco products, regardless of the student's age;
- Possession, use, sale, manufacture, distribution, or purchase of alcoholic beverages, including beer and wine ("use" includes having the odor of alcohol on one's breath);
- Possession, use, sale, manufacture, distribution, or purchase of any controlled substance, or a "look alike" substance, unless such substance was prescribed for that student by a valid prescription or order of a licensed medical practitioner while acting in the course of his/her duties;
- Possession, use, sale, manufacture, distribution, or purchase of any drug paraphernalia or apparatus used to allow the person using it to be involved with a controlled substance;
- Engaging in any act that would be grounds for arrest or citation in the criminal or juvenile court system, excluding minor traffic offenses, regardless of whether the student was cited, arrested, convicted, or adjudicated for the act(s);
- Being suspended for six or more days total during the school year for fighting, harassment, verbal abuse, aggression, or use of profanity;
- Repeated violations of rules and regulations established by the Board.

When the administration believes it is more likely than not that the student violated the Good Conduct Code, during the school year or summer, the student is subject to a loss of eligibility as follows:

First Offense:

The student will be ineligible for 25% of the scheduled contest dates of an athletic season and/or one major fine arts activity. The student must also perform five hours of approved community service or participate in a minimum four-hour substance abuse education program. Arrangements are to be made, and fees paid, by the student. The number of contests may be reduced to 15% of the contests of an athletic season if the student admits to the violation to the administration within 48 hours of the occurrence.

Second Offense:

The student will be ineligible for 50% of the scheduled contest dates of an athletic season and/or two major fine arts activities. The student must also perform ten hours of approved community service to be arranged by the student. If a student admits to the violation to the administration within 48 hours of the occurrence, the student can choose the option of reducing the ineligibility length to 33% of the season and 20 hours of community service.

For both offenses, the minimum penalty will be one contest. If a student is in more than one activity at the time of the declaration of ineligibility, the penalties for each will be served concurrently. The ineligibility may involve more than one activity season. This policy is in effect 12 months a year.

Third Offense:

The student will be ineligible for 12 calendar months from the date of the violation.

Fourth Offense:

The student will be ineligible for the remainder of the student's high school career.

Additional Good Conduct Code Guidelines

- A **major Fine Arts activity** is a drama production, speech or debate contest, and vocal or instrumental contest.
- Percentages that do not divide evenly into the total number of contests will be rounded to the greater number.
- If it has been at least one calendar year since a previous violation, the offense number will drop back one. For example, if a student has served for a first offense and has another violation at least one calendar year later, he/she will be given the consequences for a first offense again.
- If a student transfers in from another Iowa school or District and the student had not yet completed a period of ineligibility for a violation of a Good Conduct Code in the previous school or District, the student shall be ineligible.
- In satisfying an ineligibility penalty, a student must complete the activity season they have started. If a student has been declared ineligible, he/she will not be allowed to participate in an activity if that activity season has already started. (A sponsor may allow the student to practice, but the activity will not count toward fulfilling the ineligibility.)
- Students who are participating in summer activities between grade 8 and grade 9 are considered to be in grade 9. This rule also applies to seniors who graduated and participated in state association or school sponsored activities during the spring and summer months.
- If a student is in both athletics and fine arts, a student will be ineligible for the assigned athletics and a maximum of one fine arts event that falls during the period of athletic ineligibility.

Eligibility Appeal Process

Whenever a student is declared ineligible for more than one contest, the following shall apply:

- A verbal conference will be held with the administrator and the student and his/her parents. At that time, the length of the period of ineligibility and a specific explanation of the reasons for ineligibility will be discussed. The offense and the consequences will be put in writing and sent to the parents. If parents do not wish to appeal the ineligibility, the principal's decision will be in effect and be considered final.
- Should the student or his/her parent(s) feel that the offense or circumstances of this case is/are not a violation of the Good Conduct Code, they may appeal in the following manner:
- The request for the appeal must be received by the principal in writing within seven (7) business days of being declared ineligible.
- Upon receipt of the notice of appeal, an advisory, three-member panel of disinterested DC-G certified teachers shall review the case. The school principal shall appoint two members of the review panel. The student may choose one of these two appointed staff members if he/she so desires. The superintendent of schools will designate the third panel member.
- The student and his/her parent(s) shall be notified in writing three (3) days prior to the meeting of when and where the review panel will meet. The student and his/her parents shall be allowed to appear before the review panel. The meeting shall be held at the earliest possible opportunity but no later than fourteen (14) business days following the request for appeal.
- The review panel shall consider the circumstances and evidence and determine whether the offense/circumstance(s) are a violation of the Good Conduct Code, and make its recommendations in writing to the student and parent(s) and to the school principal. Responsibility for the decision rests solely with the principal of the school. The decision of the principal shall be mailed to the student and his/her parents.
- If the student wishes to appeal the principal's decision, he/she must do so in writing to the superintendent and Board of Education within three (3) business days of the receipt of the principal's decision. The appeal shall be heard at the earliest possible opportunity, but no later than seven (7) business days following the filing of the appeal.
- The Board shall schedule a special meeting for the purpose of conducting a formal hearing with all individuals involved. At the hearing, both the student and his/her parents and the administration will have an opportunity to meet and present evidence and information in support of their position. The appeal will be conducted in closed session. However, any formal action by the Board of Education must be taken at an open meeting. The Board shall issue a written decision after the hearing, which includes finding of fact and conclusions.
- During the appeal procedure the student will be ineligible.