

Policy Code: 3620/4500 Extracurricular Activities, Co-Curricular Activities, and Student Organization

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

A. Requirements for Participation in Extracurricular Activities

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, the superintendent, or 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 failed to meet any applicable attendance requirements; (3) has violated the student conduct standards found in the 4300 series of policies; or (4) has violated school rules for conduct. School administrators choosing to exercise this authority to restrict participation shall provide this policy and any additional rules, including attendance requirements, developed by the superintendent or the principal to all parents, guardians, and students.

Any school choosing to exercise its authority to restrict participation based upon any of the reasons provided in this paragraph will provide this policy and any additional rules developed by the superintendent or the principal to all parents or guardians and students.

1. Student-Initiated, Non-Curriculum-Related Student Groups at the Secondary Level

Student-initiated, non-curriculum-related, secondary school student groups will be permitted to conduct voluntary meetings on school grounds during non-instructional time (outside of scheduled instructional class periods), regardless of the size of the group or the religious, political, philosophical, or other content of the speech at the meetings, provided that the meetings do not materially and substantially interfere with the orderly conduct of the educational activities of the school. The principal shall establish viewpoint neutral rules governing such meetings, including restrictions on when and where meetings may occur. All new clubs will undergo an application process to be submitted to the school principal or designee for approval. All clubs are required to have staff supervision in order to operate as a recognized school club.

School employees may not promote, lead, or participate in student-initiated meetings but may be present at meetings to maintain order and discipline, to protect the well-being of the students and faculty, and to assure that attendance of students at the meetings is voluntary. School employees may not influence the form or content of any prayer or other religious activity or require any person to participate in prayer or other religious activity. In addition, non-school persons may not direct, conduct, control, or regularly attend the activities of the groups.

No public funds will be expended on behalf of the student-initiated, non-curriculum-related student groups except for the incidental cost of providing space for the group meetings.

All student-initiated, non-curriculum-related groups will be treated the same with regard to access to communication channels for publicizing their meetings. However, school officials may indicate in such communications that the meetings are not sponsored by the school.

For purposes of this section, a non-curriculum-related student group is one that is not directly related to the curriculum. A student group will be considered curriculum-related only if (1) the group's subject matter is taught in a regularly offered course or relates to the curriculum as a whole; (2) participation in the group is required as part of a course; or (3) participation in the group results in course credit.

B. Special Circumstances

1. Students with Disabilities

Students with disabilities must be accorded the legal rights required by federal and state law.

2. Children of Military Families

School administrators shall facilitate the inclusion and participation in extracurricular activities of children of military families, as defined in policy 4050, Children of Military Families, transferring into the school, to the extent they are otherwise qualified, by:

- a. providing information about extracurricular activities to incoming children of military families; and
- b. waiving application deadlines.

C. Appeals Process

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.

Fees that may constitute artificial barriers preventing equal access to extracurricular and cocurricular activities will be eliminated when possible, reduced, or waived. Fees will be consistent across grade levels and schools.

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\(4\)](#), [-390.2](#), [-407.5](#); State Board of Education Policy [ATHL-001](#), [EXCP-000](#); N.C. High School Athletic Association Handbook; Middle/Junior High School Athletic Manual (NCDPI), 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 Progression and Placement (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), Athletics (policy 3621/4505)

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Chapel Hill-Carrboro Schools
