

Extracurricular Activities and Student Organizations

Policy Code:

3620

The Guilford County Board of Education believes that students who participate in extracurricular activities at their school, including athletics, benefit from their participation in numerous ways. The goals of the Board of Education, in encouraging participation in extracurricular activities, are to:

- Promote a sense of accomplishment;
- Provide leadership opportunities;
- Practice democratic principles;
- Promote good sportsmanship;
- Encourage self-discipline and individual responsibility;
- Encourage cooperation and concepts of team building;
- Provide healthy outlets for competition and physical fitness; and
- Encourage the lifelong learning process.

As described below, extracurricular activities may be a school-sponsored or district-sponsored extracurricular activity or a student-initiated group. Each activity or group is expected to have appropriate supervision by GCS staff or GCS-approved volunteers, but their role differs depending on the type of activity. Students and staff are expected to abide by all GCS expectations, the Student Code of Conduct, school rules, and requirements imposed by the principal or designee regardless of the type of activity. Staff and volunteers supervising extracurricular activities and athletics are expected to follow policy 4040/7310 Staff/Student Relations in all interactions with students, on and off campus.

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

The principal shall ensure that students and families are notified of the various opportunities for participation in extracurricular activities and shall establish rules, as necessary, to govern such activities.

Each school is expected to have an athletic director, coaches and sponsors that are familiar with the expectations of the Board of Education and any outside governing body (for example, National Honor Society, North Carolina High School Athletics Association, etc.).

A. ELIGIBILITY TO PARTICIPATE

A student may participate in school or district sponsored extracurricular activities only if the student is regularly enrolled in Guilford County Schools or dually enrolled at least half-time in the assigned high school as an approved home school student.

1. Attendance requirements

A student who is absent from school will not be allowed to practice or attend any meeting of

the team or group on the day of the absence. Exceptions such as funerals, field trips, and college visitations must be approved by the principal or designee in advance.

A student who is suspended from school is not eligible to practice, play or attend any meeting during the time of suspension. If the suspension includes the last day of school before a vacation or weekend, the student becomes eligible the next calendar day after the last day of the suspension.

2. Conduct

The Guilford County Schools Code of Conduct applies to all students participating in extracurricular activities and student organizations, including athletics, on and off campus.

Participation in extracurricular activities, including 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](#), Grading and Reporting Student Progress; (2) has failed to meet any applicable attendance requirements; (3) has violated the student conduct standards associated with Policy [4300](#) Student Discipline; 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.

The Guilford County Board of Education expects all students who represent their school through participation in extracurricular activities to be good representatives of their school community. Students should dress, act and conduct themselves in a way that reflects positively on their school. Each student is expected to display good citizenship at all times. Taunting is expressly prohibited. Taunting includes actions or comments which are intended to bait, anger, embarrass, ridicule or demean others, whether or not deeds or words are vulgar or racist. Any student who fails to conduct themselves appropriately may have the privilege of participation limited or revoked.

3. Interscholastic athletics

In addition to meeting the general requirements listed above, to be eligible for interscholastic athletics participation, students must meet all applicable eligibility standards of law and the State Board of Education as well as any locally established requirements for interscholastic athletics participation as outlined in administrative regulations issued by the Superintendent.

It is the policy of the board that a student who transfers from one school in the school system to another school in the school system will be immediately eligible to participate in interscholastic athletics at the new school, if otherwise permitted under the rules of the State Board of Education.

A student participating in interscholastic athletics may enter an agreement to use the student's name, image, or likeness subject to the requirements of 16 N.C.A.C. 6E .0211.

4. Eligibility for home school students

Any home school student whose primary residence (as defined in 16 N.C.A.C. 6E .0207) is in the school system and who is dually enrolled in accordance with the school system's enrollment and assignment policies and procedures is eligible to participate in high school interscholastic athletics if the student complies with the requirements of this subsection and meets all applicable eligibility standards of law and the State Board of Education as well as any applicable locally established requirements for interscholastic athletics participation.

The student must present a home school card from the Division of Non-Public Education for the previous and current years as well as a transcript, attendance record, and immunization records. Prior to the first date of practice, the student must provide the results of a nationally standardized achievement test, taken within the last year, that indicates the student was on grade level at the time the test was taken.

The student must have been enrolled in a registered home school for 365 days prior to participation in athletics. Once dually enrolled and deemed eligible to participate in athletics, the student must maintain continuous dual enrollment. Failure to maintain continuous dual enrollment would render the student ineligible for athletic participation for 365 days.

The student must participate in a class schedule at the assigned school that is at least one half of the assigned school's instructional day. At least one class must be taken on campus each semester. The student must pass all classes in which the student is enrolled at the assigned school in order to maintain athletic eligibility.

The student must notify the principal of the assigned school in writing of the student's intent to try out for an athletic team at least 10 days prior to the first practice date of each sport season in which the student wishes to participate. Failure to comply with this requirement renders the student ineligible for that sport season.

B. EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Guilford County Schools sponsors a varied activities program for all enrolled students. Extracurricular activities are designed and provided to support the curricular goals established by the schools in the district. These activities should include but not limited to: summer enrichment, clubs, arts programs and district or school-sponsored camps.

C. ATHLETICS

Extracurricular sports are generally governed by the rules established by the North Carolina State Board of Education and the North Carolina High School Athletic Association. In addition to the rules established by NCHSAA, each coach may have rules and expectations for the members of the team which shall be distributed to all players and parents at the beginning of the season. All students who participate in athletics are subject to disciplinary consequences imposed by coaches.

D. STUDENT-INITIATED, NONCURRICULUM-RELATED STUDENT GROUPS IN GRADES SIX THROUGH 12

Student-initiated, noncurriculum-related, secondary school student groups will be permitted to

conduct voluntary meetings on school grounds during noninstructional time, 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.

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, noncurriculum-related student groups except for the incidental cost of providing space for the group meetings. GCS does not authorize or sponsor any travel by student-initiated groups.

Student-initiated, noncurriculum-related groups will have the same access to communication channels for publicizing their meetings as is allowed to all other noncurriculum-related student groups. However, student-initiated groups must indicate in such communications that the meetings are not sponsored by the school.

For purposes of this subsection, a noncurriculum-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.

E. TRAVEL

Travel related to extracurricular activities and student organizations falls under the requirements of policy 3320 Field Trips. All students will be required to travel to and from events with the coach or sponsor and the team unless the coach or sponsor receives a request in writing directly from the parent or guardian that the student has permission to travel by other means.

F. APPEALS PROCESS

The grievance procedure provided in policy [1740/4010](#), Student/Parent Complaints and Grievances, may be used by parents or students who believe that a student has been aggrieved by a decision made pursuant to this policy.

The Superintendent shall develop administrative regulations for the implementation of this policy.

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. 12-3.3](#); [115C art. 9](#), [115C-12\(23\)](#), [-47\(4\)](#), [-76.110](#), [-390.2](#), [-407.5](#), [-407.55](#), [-407.59](#), [-407.60](#), [-407.65](#), [-407.70](#), [-407.75](#); [16 N.C.A.C. 6E .0207](#), [.0208](#), [.0211](#); State Board of Education Policy [ATHL-001](#); *Policies Governing Services for Children with Disabilities*, State Board of Education Policy [EXCP-000](#); N.C. High School Athletic Association Handbook, available at <https://www.nchsaa.org/handbook>; Middle/Junior High School Athletic Manual (NCDPI), available at <http://www.dpi.nc.gov/districts-schools/classroom-resources/academic-standards/programs-and-initiatives/nc-healthy-schools/athletics>

Cross References: Parental Involvement and Empowerment (policy [1310/4002](#)), Student/Parent Grievances (policy [1740/4010](#)), Field Trips (policy [3320](#)), Student Promotion and Accountability (policy [3420](#)), School Improvement Plan (policy [3430](#)), Student/Staff Relations (policy [4040/7310](#)), Children of Military Families (policy [4050](#)), Domicile or Residence Requirements (policy [4120](#)), Homeless Students (policy [4125](#)), School Assignment (policy [4150](#)), North Carolina Address Confidentiality Program (policy [4250/5075/7316](#)), Student Discipline (policy [4300](#)), Student Attendance (policy [4400](#)), Community Use of Facilities (policy [5030](#))

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