

FOR DISCUSSION ONLY – SUBJECT TO FURTHER MODIFICATION

**ELIGIBILITY FOR PARTICIPATION IN INTERSCHOLASTIC
ATHLETIC ACTIVITIES**

The Board encourages [**School unit name**] students to participate in the various interscholastic athletic activities that the District may provide at the high school, middle school and 6th grade levels. These activities offer students the opportunity to learn new skills, to compete in a variety of sports, 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 interscholastic athletic 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 interscholastic athletic activities to students, the schools and the community, it is the Board's intent to ensure that participation in such activities does not interfere with student learning and academic progress. It is the Board's intent to establish eligibility standards that support the well-being of students and the integrity of the District's extracurricular athletic programs.

Academic Eligibility

In order to participate in interscholastic athletic activities (including try-outs, practices, scrimmages, exhibition games, competitions, tournaments or other activities):

- A. A student must be a full-time student in the [**School unit name**] school system. For high school students this means the student must be enrolled in a minimum of _____ courses (credits) each quarter.
- B. Eligibility will be determined by academic quarters. Eligibility will be reviewed at the end of each quarter and will be effective for the following quarter the day report cards are issued. 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.
- C. A student must have maintained an aggregate proficiency level of 2.0 [**OR:** _____], with no grade lower than a 1.5 [**OR:** _____], in any content area of the Learning Results in the previous grading period.

- D. A student who, during any given quarter, is failing one or more courses but is still passing ____ courses, may participate so long as he/she maintains a cumulative aggregate proficiency average of ____.
- E. Incomplete grades may be made up for credit during the first two weeks of the subsequent quarter. The student will be ineligible during those two weeks. If the student shows that he/she is demonstrating a minimum proficiency level of 1.5 [**OR:** ____] at the end of the two-week period, eligibility will be restored.
- F. 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 upon completing the course the student has demonstrated an aggregate proficiency level of 2.0, with no grade lower than a 1.5, eligibility will be restored.
- G. Students who do not meet academic eligibility requirements at the end of a quarter will be ineligible for all of the next academic quarter, i.e., until report cards for the next quarter are issued.
- H. Credit recovery may [**OR: may not**] be used for the purpose of regaining eligibility.
- I. An academically ineligible student may not participate in meetings, practices, performances, scrimmages or competition; may not sit with the team or group at home or away competitions or travel with the team or group.
- J. An academically ineligible student may try out for a sport or activity that will begin in the next quarter.
- K. Incoming freshmen will be considered eligible until the end of the first grading period.
- L. 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, a sports physical will be required before a student in grades six through 12 may participate in, or try out for, interscholastic athletic activities. The student must submit to the school nurse proof of a sports physical performed within 90 days [OR: ____] prior to participation or trying out.

Thereafter, a student participating in sports must have a sports physical every other year.

For years between required sports physicals, the student must submit a completed health information questionnaire to the school nurse. If, on the basis of information submitted, the school nurse questions whether the student should be allowed to participate, the school nurse will refer the student to his/her health care provider for further examination.

Whenever feasible within budgetary limitations, the District will schedule sports physicals by a licensed physician at a reduced rate for students who wish to participate or try out for interscholastic athletics. Students who have their sports physical performed by their family physician will need to provide evidence of the examination signed by the physician.

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.

Return to Play

A student who suffers serious illness or injury, or shows signs of a concussion, must obtain "return to play" clearance from his/her health care provider before further participation in athletics is allowed.

Parent Permission for Student Athletes

Before participating in the tryout or first practice, a student must provide his/her coach with 1) a permission form signed by his/her parent or guardian; 2) a parent-signed form acknowledging and accepting the risk of injury that may occur as a result of participation; and 3) a medical emergency card by which parents give their permission for the student to be treated by medical personnel in the event of an injury.

Attendance Standards

A student who is absent from school or who arrives at school after 9:00 A.M., is dismissed early, or misses any part of the school day may not participate unless the principal has approved the absence or dismissal in advance.

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 activities so long as they are consistent with this and other Board policies.

Students participating in interscholastic athletics and other extracurricular 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 parents of the eligibility standards articulated in this policy through the student handbook, athletic code, parent and participant meetings, and/or other means.

Cross Reference: JJI - Philosophy of Athletics

Adopted: _____