

8607: Participation in Extra-Curricular Activities, Including Athletics

Extra-curricular activities provide space, outside of the structured academic process, where students can readily realize self-appreciation for their accomplishments. Participating individually or as a team member teaches social skills, builds student confidence and motivates enthusiasm for achieving academic success. Team sports greatly raise morale in school. For these obvious benefits, the Exeter-West Greenwich School Committee regards participation in extra-curricular activities as an essential element of education.

Policy Proclamation

The school committee proclaims that eligibility to participate in extra-curricular activities, including athletics, shall be administered by school principals in accordance with the standards herein. The standards shall also appear in student handbooks. For athletic eligibility, these shall be in addition to the District Athletic Handbook, and the applicable requirements of the Rhode Island Interscholastic League or the Junior High School Principal's League, as appropriate.

Scope of Policy

This policy sets forth the academic eligibility standards that students must achieve to participate in Senior High School (SHS) extra-curricular activities including athletics, and the attendance and deportment standards required for Junior High School (JHS) students to participate in extra-curricular activities and the additional academic eligibility standards that JHS students must achieve to participate in athletics. The policy also provides the opportunity to regain eligibility for students who have fallen below standards. Student participation in co-curricular activities is not subject to eligibility requirements.

I. Academic Eligibility Standards—Senior High School Students

The academic eligibility of students shall be determined by the grades received at each previous marking period. For SHS students, the effective marking periods shall be first quarter, first semester, third quarter and final grades. The final grades shall be used to determine first quarter eligibility in the subsequent school year. To maintain eligibility, students must have:

1. No more than one failing grade in the previous marking period.
2. A grade point average of 2.0 or above in the previous marking period.

Students with more than one failing grade or a grade point average below 2.0 in any previous marking period, shall be suspended from extra-curricular activities, including athletics, until the academic standards, 1 and 2 above, are achieved in a subsequent marking period of the current school year; provided however, students who have performed below standards in a marking period may regain eligibility by successful participation in one of the academic probation programs set forth in section III of this policy.

II. Eligibility Standards—Junior High School Students

Eligibility for JHS students' participation in extra-curricular activities shall depend on the support of parents, student attendance, deportment at school and behavior at the activities. In addition, students must maintain academic standards to participate in athletics.

Parental Participation

Parents must complete and sign a form, provided by the school, which grants permission for their child to participate in an extra-curricular activity. (Students must also complete and sign the form). A completed and signed form shall be required for each activity. As required on the form, parents must consent to and provide their child after-school transportation, not later than 3:30 P.M. on the day of the activity.

Attendance

To participate in an extra-curricular activity, JHS students must attend a full day at school on the day of the extra-curricular activity.

Student Deportment at School

A student who has received detention or suspension, as a consequence of referral to the principal's office, at any time during three weeks prior to an extra-curricular activity may be suspended from the activity. Such suspension shall be at the discretion of the principal in consideration of the severity or frequency of the student's offenses.

Student Conduct at Activities

A student who, whether as a participant or spectator, disrupts an extra-curricular activity may be removed from the activity; and, depending on the severity of the student's conduct, the student may be suspended from future extra-curricular activities and subject to further disciplinary actions.

Academic Eligibility Standards—Junior High Student Athletes

Academic eligibility for JHS students to participate in athletics shall be determined by the grades received on their quarterly report cards and the completeness of their schoolwork assignments. For JHS students the effective marking periods shall be the first, second and third quarters. All students shall be eligible to participate in athletics during the first quarter marking period. To maintain eligibility during subsequent quarters, the academic standards requires that students shall have no more than one failing grade on the previous quarter report card or no more than one incomplete grade in the previous quarter.

Students who have more than one failing grade on a quarterly report card or who have more than one incomplete grade during the previous quarter, shall be suspended from athletics until the academic standards are achieved in a subsequent quarter; provided however, the principal may use an academic probation program in which students who have performed below the standards may regain eligibility.

III. Academic Probation

Principal's Academic Probationary Period

A three-week principal's academic probationary period will be available to SHS students who have a grade point average of 1.8 to 1.99 and who have no more than one failing grade in a quarterly marking period. At the JHS a two-week principal's academic probation period will be available for student-athletes who have no more than one failing grade on the previous quarterly report card.

Probation will be available to each student only one time per school year. The terms of probation are listed below:

- SHS students will be excluded from extra-curricular activities, including athletics,
- JHS students will be excluded from athletics,
- Students, working with the principal, will formulate and mutually agree to a plan to elevate the deficient grades,
- Students will submit weekly progress reports to the principal, and
- Students' eligibility will be restored at the end of the probation period provided the principal is satisfied that the deficient grades have been corrected.

The probationary period available to SHS students, whose academic deficiencies occur in the last marking period of the school year, shall be the first three weeks of the subsequent school year. Whenever a student-athlete is in a probationary period or has a pending period, such as the first three weeks of school, the athletic director will suspend the student-athlete from all athletic activities until the principal restores the student's eligibility. The athletic director's suspension will include all pre-season, pre-game, or between games training or practice and will also extend to riding on the bus while accompanying an E-WG sports team en route to an athletic contest.

To facilitate school committee monitoring of the academic probation programs, the superintendent's monthly status reports shall include the number of newly added students along with the total number of students participating in the academic probation programs of each the SHS and JHS principals. For purposes of this reporting, a student shall be considered placed into an academic probation program immediately following each marking period for which the SHS student's GPA falls below 2.0 and/or the JHS student has a failing grade in the marking period.

Alternative Academic Probationary Program

An alternative academic probation program, which requires weekly academic performance monitoring, will be available to certain SHS students whose GPA is below the 1.8 to 1.99 range. To participate in the principal's alternative academic probationary program, students must be recommended by the principal and approved by the school committee on a case-by-case basis. The principal will not recommend any student who has more than one failing grade in the previous marking period. An approved student will be eligible for extra-curricular activities including athletics throughout the school year of the approval, provided that the student continues to fulfill his or her agreement with the principal.

Renewal of the principal's recommendation and the school committee's approval shall be required each school year that the student remains eligible for extra-curricular activities including athletics by his or her participation in the alternative academic probationary program.

The requirements for approval and continued eligibility are listed below:

1. The student must request participation from the principal.
2. The principal will review the student's academic performance, deportment and attendance to determine if an appropriate program can be developed for the student.
3. If the principal so determines, the principal will convene a meeting with the student and the student's parents to formulate a mutual agreement for the student's participation in the program. Such agreement will include, but not be limited to, academic goals and the deportment, attendance and any other standards that the principal expects from the student. The student must also agree that, during the probation period, he or she will submit weekly progress reports to the principal pertaining to the goals and standards achieved.
4. Upon reaching a satisfactory agreement, the principal will recommend approval of the student's request to the school committee. The superintendent will place the request on the school committee meeting agenda.
5. The school committee will hear the request in executive session, with the student, parents and principal in attendance. If the committee approves the request, the student will be eligible for extra-curricular activities including athletics.

In compliance with the disclosure of student personally identifiable information provisions of the Federal Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act, the principal will require the parents of students under age 18 to sign and date a district FERPA consent form authorizing disclosure of the student's educational records as may necessary at the school committee hearing. Students age 18 or older shall be required to complete and sign the form authorizing disclosure of their own educational records. Additionally, minutes reporting the school committee hearing, held in executive session, will either omit any references to the student's educational records or be sealed.

IV. Athletic Standards

Students who participate in athletics must meet the requirements of the Rhode Island Interscholastic League or the Junior High School Principal's League, this school committee policy and the athletic standards set forth in the School District Athletic Handbook. These standards require that all students who participate in athletic practices or contests shall have their own health insurance and shall also purchase the District Student Accident Insurance Plan. In addition, a physical examination shall be required before beginning each year of participation in athletics.

V. Appeal Process

Every eligible student shall be afforded an equal opportunity to participate in extra-curricular activities and the athletic program. Students who feel that they have been unfairly denied eligibility to participate may appeal. Appeals for denial of academic eligibility must begin with the principal, then the superintendent, and school committee. The appeal procedure for athletic academic suspension is set forth in the District Athletic Handbook.

VI. Effective Date

This revised policy shall be come effective retroactive to September 1, 2007 or the date that the school committee adopts the revision, whichever first occurs.

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1st Revision

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2nd Revision

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