

STUDENT ACTIVITIES

Code **JJ** Issued **3/13**

Purpose: To establish the board's vision regarding student activities and the basic structure for the conduct of those activities.

The board regards student activities at the elementary and secondary level as a vital part of the total educational program as long as the schools safeguard the development and well-being of the students. Schools should use these activities as a means of developing wholesome attitudes and good human relations as well as knowledge and skills.

The board sanctions student activities that traditionally have been a part of the overall school program provided school personnel properly supervise and operate the activities in accordance with school policies and regulations.

The board considers student activities to be learning experiences. The administration must develop, manage and evaluate these activities with this purpose in mind. The board considers students activities part of the total school curriculum. The administration should be included in regular curriculum planning, review and evaluation processes regarding these activities.

The principal will be responsible for the organization of all student activities. He/She will provide adequate supervision, administer student finances and approve all student activities with the assistance of delegated members of the faculty.

Interscholastic activities

Interscholastic activities include school-sponsored activities between schools for which preparation occurs outside of the regular school day. Individuals or members of groups involved in activities which include out-of-school practice on more than one occasion weekly must meet eligibility requirements.

The board is responsible for the monitoring of all interscholastic activities other than those under the jurisdiction of the South Carolina High School League. Rules of the South Carolina High School League govern interscholastic athletics.

Schools will determine academic eligibility at the beginning of each semester. Eligibility will be based on the previous semester's record of courses taken and grades achieved.

To be eligible to participate in interscholastic activities, the student must meet eligibility requirements as established by the South Carolina High School League. High school eligibility is as follows:

- To be eligible in the first semester, a student must pass a minimum of five Carnegie units applicable toward a high school diploma during the previous year. At least two units must have been passed during the second semester or summer school.
- To be eligible during the second semester, the student must meet one of the following conditions.

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- If the student met first semester eligibility requirements, then he/she must pass the equivalent of four, ½ units during the first semester.
- If the student did not meet first semester eligibility requirements, then he/she must pass the equivalent of five, ½ units during the first semester.

Option (for block scheduling)

In a 4 X 4 block schedule where units or ½ units are granted at the end of the first semester, the following will apply.

- if eligible first semester, must earn two units
- if not eligible first semester, must earn two and one-half units

Academic courses are those courses of instruction for which credit toward high school graduation is given. These may be required or approved electives.

If the interscholastic activity occurs completely within one semester, a student must satisfy these conditions in the semester preceding participation in the interscholastic activity. If the interscholastic activity occurs over two consecutive semesters and is under the jurisdiction of the South Carolina High School League, the student must satisfy these conditions in the semester preceding the first semester of participation.

Charter school student participation in interscholastic activities

A charter school student is eligible to compete for, and if selected, participate in any interscholastic activities not offered by the student's charter school which are offered at the resident public school he/she would otherwise attend, as well as any activities governed by the South Carolina High School League not offered at the charter school. Eligibility requirements and fees for these activities will be the same as those applied to full-time students of the resident school and the district may not impose any additional requirements for participation on charter school students that are not imposed on full-time students.

Home school student participation in interscholastic activities

A student residing in the district and eligible to attend school of the district who has been taught in accordance with state law governing home schooling requirements for a full academic year prior to participating in an interscholastic activity may be eligible to participate in the interscholastic activities of the school where he/she is zoned to attend.

For purposes of this section, interscholastic activities are those activities of the district involving participation or competition among or between schools, including interscholastic music, speech, athletic and other such activities.

In addition, the district will not allow an ineligible student to participate in any interscholastic activity.

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Students diagnosed as disabled under the criteria established by the state board of education and satisfying the requirements of their Individualized Education Plan (IEP) as required may be eligible to participate in interscholastic and/or intrascholastic activities.

Any challenge to a charter school or home school student's approval, denial or revocation of the privilege to participate in an interscholastic activity will be subject to the same review and appeal procedures as any student enrolled in Spartanburg District 4.

The superintendent or his/her designee will be responsible for disseminating this policy and supporting information to students, staff, parents/legal guardians, coaches, athletic directors, volunteers and members of the community through means to include, but not be limited to, student/staff handbooks, athletic handbooks, district website, parent notifications, etc.

Adopted 10/5/98; Revised 1/5/09, 11/5/12; Issued 3/4/13

Legal references:

A. Federal Legislation:

1. Education of the Handicapped Act – Public Law 94-142 – Provides for free, appropriate, public education for all handicapped children.

B. S.C. Code, 1976, as amended:

1. Section 59-39-160 – Requirements for student participation in interscholastic activities.
2. Section 59-63-425 – Students may transfer
3. Section 59-38-10 – South Carolina Education Bill of Rights for Children in Foster Care.
4. Section 59-65-40 – Home schooling programs
5. Section 59-65-45 – Alternative home schooling requirements
6. Section 59-65-47 – Associations for home schools; requirements.
7. Section 59-40-10, et seq. – South Carolina Charter School Act of 1996.
8. Section 59-63-100, et seq. – Equal Access to Interscholastic Activities Act.

C. State Board of Education Regulations:

1. R-43-244.1 – Interscholastic activities: academic requirements for participation.