

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.

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Definitions

Note: For purposes of implementation of the policy, it is recommended that districts define and categorize their student activities. Districts will need to decide whether home school student participation will extend to those extracurricular activities that may have a credit bearing class requirement attached for participation.

The definitions below are presented as examples for the district to consider.

- Interscholastic activities include school-sponsored activities, both athletic and non-athletic, between schools for which preparation occurs outside of the regular school day.
- Intrascholastic activities are those athletic and nonathletic activities that occur within the school and outside of the regular curriculum, funded and supported by the district, and for which at least some preparation occurs outside of the regular school day. A student must be enrolled in a school in Spartanburg District 4 to participate in intrascholastic activities. Eligibility for participation of specific activities is determined by individual school guidelines included in the student handbook.

Charter school student eligibility

To be eligible to participate in a school's interscholastic activities, a charter school student must do the following.

- Be a resident of the district and provide proof of residency to the superintendent or his/her designee.
- Complete an application to participate in interscholastic activities prior to the commencement of the activity involved.
- Meet applicable academic, attendance and behavioral requirements to participate in district interscholastic and/or student activities, including applicable state regulatory requirements for interscholastic activity participation.
- Participate at his/her residentially assigned school and be responsible for payment of all fees and expenses associated with participation in the activity charged to student participants enrolled in the district.
- Not have available a similar activity or program offered by or through the charter school in which he/she is enrolled.

Any costs associated with a required aide, special services support, special transportation, etc. for a disabled charter school student with special needs necessary for participation in an interscholastic activity must be arranged and funded by the student's charter school. The charter school is responsible for complying with any

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requirements of Section 504 or the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act with respect to a student's participation in an interscholastic activity.

A charter school student participating in an interscholastic activity is responsible for transportation to the activity.

Home school student eligibility

To be eligible to participate in a school's interscholastic activities, a home school student must do the following.

- Be a resident of the district and provide proof of residency to the superintendent or his/her designee.
- Complete an application to the superintendent or his/her designee to participate in district interscholastic activities before the beginning date of the season for the activity.
- Meet applicable academic, attendance and behavioral requirements to participate in district interscholastic activities, including applicable state regulatory requirements for interscholastic activity participation.
- Participate at his/her residentially assigned school and be responsible for payment of all fees and expenses associated with participation in the activity charged to student participants enrolled in the district.

The district is responsible for ensuring reasonable accommodations are provided to home school students participating in district interscholastic activities who have a qualifying disability under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act or the Americans with Disabilities Act.

A former public school student who has been unable to maintain academic eligibility is ineligible to participate in interscholastic activities as a home school student for the following semester. To establish eligibility thereafter as a home school student, the student's teacher must certify by affidavit to the superintendent or his/her designee that the student meets the district's interscholastic activity participation requirements.

A home school student participating in an interscholastic activity is responsible for transportation to the activity.

Adopted: 11/5/12; Issued 3/4/13

REQUEST/VERIFICATION FORM FOR CHARTER SCHOOL STUDENT PARTICIPATION IN INTERSCHOLASTIC ACTIVITY

(To be completed by the charter school administrator and student's parent/legal guardian)

Pursuant to H. 3241 59-40-50 Section 6, a charter school student is eligible to participate in interscholastic activities at the student's resident public school consistent with eligibility standards as applied to full-time students of the resident public school.

I understand the following conditions are required.

- The charter school student is requesting to participate in interscholastic activities at his/her zoned school (contact the district office).
- The charter school student must meet the appropriate requirements of the charter school education program as determined by the charter school governing board.
- The charter school student will agree to meet the same standards of academic performance, behavior and other identified requirements as all other district students.
- The charter school student must contact the school to obtain all information involving dates and procedures for "tryouts."
- The charter school student or parent/legal guardian will agree to pay any participation fees normally charged to all district students.
- The charter school does not offer a similar interscholastic program or activity.

The charter school student must agree to a release of educational records to the district necessary to verify compliance with participation requirements.

If approved and selected to participate, the charter school student is responsible for transportation to and from the interscholastic activity.

(To be completed by the charter school administrator)

Charter school name: _____ Student name: _____

Interscholastic activity: _____ School year (2012-2013): _____

Name of charter school administrator: _____ Official title: _____

Administrator's phone number: _____ Email: _____

Signature

Date

Note: Send completed form to the designated administrator of the participating school and send a copy to the district.

Parent/Legal guardian signature

Date

INTENT TO PARTICIPATE IN INTERSCHOLASTIC ACTIVITIES
Home School Student

Dear Superintendent,

I am writing to notify you of the intent to participate in interscholastic activities by a home school student. I hereby attest that this student was a home school student for a full academic year prior to participation in the activity and resides within the boundaries of the school for which the student will participate. I understand this student must meet all school district eligibility requirements with the exception of the school district's school or class attendance requirements, or the class and enrollment requirements of the associations administering the interscholastic activities.

We look forward to this involvement in our community. Please let us know if you need any additional information.

Sincerely,

(Parent/Legal guardian signature)

(Parent/Legal guardian printed name)

Note: The home school student must agree to a release of educational records to the district necessary to verify compliance with participation requirements.

The contact information for your district superintendent may be found at www.ed.sc.gov/schools.

Student information

Full name: _____

Home address: _____

Public school district*: _____ Public school: _____

Phone number: _____ Email: _____

Birth date (mm/dd/yy): _____ Grade level (for participating year): _____

Home school association**: _____

Association phone: _____ Association email: _____

Interscholastic activity/activities

I am seeking to participate in the following activity/activities.

Athletics*** (list sports): _____

Music (list activity): _____

Other (list activity): _____

Student signature

Date (mm/dd/yy)

*To find your school district by your address visit: schooldistrictfinder.com

**A list of SC home school accountability groups may be found at: PalmettoFamily.org/Homeschool

***See the www.schsl.org calendar for high school sports dates and deadlines.