

Descriptor Term: CO-CURRICULAR AND EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES
PARTICIPATION

Descriptor Code: IDE

Rescinds:

Board Approved: 9/8/2015

Previously Approved: 8/28/2006

I. Philosophy

- A. Participation in extracurricular and co-curricular activities is a privilege students must earn through responsible and minimally acceptable academic achievement.
- B. Participation in extracurricular and co-curricular activities provides students with individual training and experience in teamwork and leadership skills, and the school should provide such activities within available resources and opportunities, scheduling them conveniently to enable and encourage students to take advantage of the activities provided.

II. Definition of Terms

- A. Extracurricular Activities - All activities which take place primarily outside the normal school day or, though they take place during the normal school day, do not earn Carnegie unit credit. Typical extracurricular activities include but are not limited to all sports, cheerleading, newspaper staff, annual staff, student council, office aides, student assistants for teachers, and academic teams.
- B. Co-curricular Activities - Activities which may earn Carnegie unit credit or middle school credits but which also include participation dimensions often occurring outside the school day. Band and chorus are two typical examples, but a few other activities may also qualify as co-curricular under certain circumstances.
- C. Eligibility - The status of a student with regard to compliance with the academic and conduct requirements of the District to participate in extracurricular and co-curricular activities. A student may be eligible, on probation, or ineligible for the time period established by this policy.
- D. Probation - The status of a student who has failed to remain eligible but who is allowed to continue to participate for a specific limited period of time while he/she attempts to regain eligibility.
- E. Ineligible - The status of a student who has failed to remain eligible due to academic or behavioral challenges.
- F. MHSAA – Mississippi High School Activities Association

III. Participation Eligibility Policy

- A. Each participant must be enrolled in secondary school, grades 9-12, and must be

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taking a minimum of three Carnegie units or enrolled in middle school credit courses, grades 7-8, and must be taking the required course of study.

- B. A participant is eligible for participation in MHSAA-sanctioned activities if he or she maintains a GPA of C or higher the semester prior to participation.
- C. Eligibility standards must be met by each participant during the previous semester, with summer school included for assessing eligibility for the following semester.
- D. Participants in either in-school or out-of school suspension are temporarily ineligible during the time of their suspension. The cause for suspension and the remedies agreed upon may include longer periods of ineligibility as determined by the principal.
- E. Participants whose absences result in loss of credit for a subject or subjects will become ineligible for the remainder of the school year.
- F. In addition to the above requirements, participants must meet other requirements of the MHSAA, when applicable, and other requirements of national organizations (National Honor Society, Beta Club, etc.), when applicable. For a few specific activities, additional or increased level standards may be imposed by mutual consent of school administrators, sponsors, parents, and students for participation eligibility.
- G. EXCEPTIONS:
 - 1. Homecoming, beauty contests, talent shows, yearbook recognition elections and other short-term activities as determined by the school administration shall be excluded from the requirements of this policy.
 - 2. Special Education students in good standing who perform satisfactorily in accord with requirements of their IEPs (Individual Education Plan) will be judged eligible to participate in activities.

IV. Probation

- A. A participant who fails to maintain a GPA of a C or higher is ineligible for participation and will be placed on academic probation during the semester he or she is ineligible. He or she may be reinstated for the next semester once earning a GPA of a C or higher. Otherwise the participant will be ruled ineligible and will remain ineligible until he/she completes a semester in which he/she satisfies Item III B, of this policy.
- B. A participant who loses eligibility temporarily because of unacceptable conduct will regain eligibility as determined by decisions of the school administration regarding the misconduct and remedies developed for the misconduct. In some cases, such remedies may include a specific probationary period with appropriate agreements developed between the participant and the school administration to govern the probation.

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V. Appeal Process

An appeal process will be established to enable any participant determined to be ineligible to have his/her case reviewed upon request of the participant, his/her parents, or the sponsor. The process shall proceed as follows:

- A. Appeal is to be initiated with the principal.
- B. The Principal will appoint a committee consisting of the Principal, a parent or other adult requested by the appellant to represent him or her, the activity sponsor, and the teacher(s) who have awarded failing grades to the appellant. This committee will examine pertinent school records of the student, his/her attitude about school, the opinion of the student's teachers regarding his/her abilities, the presence of any extenuating circumstances affecting performance, what might be needed in order for the student to improve academically, what decision regarding extracurricular activities would be in the student's best educational interest, and any other factors judged by the committee to be pertinent for determining a disposition for the appeal. The disposition decided may be ineligible status or reinstatement with or without waiving of requirements and with or without other stipulations.
- C. If the appellant is not satisfied with the disposition determined by the committee, he/she may appeal to the Superintendent.
- D. If the appellant is not satisfied with the disposition determined by the Superintendent, he/she may appeal to the Board of Trustees. The decision of the Board of Trustees will be final.

VI. Implementation

- A. Upon approval by the Board of Trustees this policy will become effective from the first day of classes for the current school year (e.g., initial eligibility will be based on academic performance for the spring semester or summer school of prior school year.)
- B. The Principal will establish procedures for implementing this policy at the school level.