

Board Policy IDE(3): Competitive Interscholastic Activities, Grades 6-12

Status: DRAFT

Original Adopted Date: 06/08/2020 | **Last Revised Date:** 03/11/2024 | **Last Reviewed Date:** 10/14/2024

The Henry County Board of Education recognizes the value to students of participation in interscholastic and extracurricular activity, and hereby adopts this policy regulating competitive interscholastic activities.

1. Each middle and high school principal shall regulate competitive interscholastic activities in his or her school and shall ensure that all staff members adhere to the school system's athletic guidelines, this policy, and related rules of the State Board of Education. The principal may delegate responsibility for supervising one or more student activities and clubs to a member or members of the professional staff, provided such individuals must act under the principal's direction.
2. A student wishing to participate in interscholastic competitive activities, except home study students, must be enrolled full-time in the school system during the semester of participation. Home study students must enroll in and attempt to complete one qualifying course as defined in state law for each semester of participation.
3. Retention of students for athletic purposes is prohibited.
4. Each principal of a school covered by this policy shall maintain documentation of adherence to the requirements of the policy.

The Board endorses and adopts the requirements set forth in the Constitution and By-Laws of the Georgia High School Association (GHSA), including any amendments thereto, for determining the eligibility of students in grades 9-12 to participate in competitive interscholastic activities. The Superintendent shall require all high schools in the school system that sponsor competitive interscholastic activities to access and ensure compliance with the GHSA Constitution and By-Laws.

To be eligible for participation, an individual must be enrolled full time in the school that sponsors the competitive activity; or if the individual is enrolled at Impact Academy, the individual shall be allowed to participate in GHSA extracurricular activities as a member of the school team for the school which they would ordinarily attend within the policies of the Board. Home study students who meet the requirement of enrollment in at least one qualifying course at the school in which they are zoned, may participate following all required guidelines for participation.

The Board is responsible for regulating competitive interscholastic activities in grades 6-8, and therefore adopts the middle grades requirements set forth in State Board Rule 160-5-1-.18 Competitive Interscholastic Activities in Grades 6-12, as to student eligibility, physical examinations, and special provisions.

All schools containing students in grades 6-8 also must comply with any local requirements established by the Superintendent or designee to govern competitive interscholastic activities for middle school students.
