

South Country Central School District
CO-CURRICULAR & EXTRA-CURRICULAR

ELIGIBILITY POLICY

This policy establishes the standards by which students shall conduct themselves if they choose to take advantage of the privileges afforded to them by participating in activities defined in this policy. Students participating in activities shall commit themselves to meet the standards of this policy and of the District Code of Conduct at all times and in all places during a calendar year.

Statement of Philosophy

It is a privilege and an honor to participate in a full range of student activities provided by the South Country School District. These activities and participation in them contribute to each student's education by:

- A. Promoting good citizenship and moral character
- B. Developing discipline and skills necessary to promote personal success and well being
- C. Promoting the image and identity of the school and community

Students who choose to participate in activities will conduct themselves appropriately at all times both on school grounds and away from the school.

Eligibility Categories

1. Behavioral Eligibility

A student serving an out-of-school suspension on a given day may not return to school for classes or after-school activities on that day. If the suspension encompasses a weekend, the student is prohibited from all school activities over the weekend as well. Any student who accumulates 7 days of suspension in one academic year will lose activity privileges for the succeeding fifteen school days from the day of return to school. Where necessary, this loss of participation privileges will be extended into the next academic year.

2. Academic Eligibility

Students wishing to participate in extra-curricular activities or athletics must maintain a GPA of 70. A student with 60-69 quarterly grade point average or two failing grades **may participate, however he/she must attend Study Center** (a student with a GPA below 60 or 3+ failures is deemed ineligible and must file an appeal to the Eligibility Committee to be considered). Students receive report cards at the end of each marking period. These will be reviewed quarterly to determine continued eligibility.

3. Attendance Eligibility

All students are encouraged to participate in the variety of activities available at Bellport High School, including sports, clubs, theater productions, etc.

- Students must maintain an **80%** attendance rate *throughout the school year* in order to be eligible to participate in any extra-curricular activity. This rate will be calculated based on a student's cumulative ***unexcused absences*** divided by the number of cumulative school days completed. The attendance calculated by administration and will be used to determine student eligibility. Attendance will be reviewed at the **end of each month**. Students who fall below the 80% threshold and participate in any extra-curricular activity will be required to *attend study center* until the next month's attendance review. Students who continue to fall below the 80% threshold for two consecutive months will be deemed ineligible for continued participation.
- A student must be present in school for a majority of the classes (to include study halls, exclude lunch) on their schedule on that day and arrive prior to 8:45am in order to be eligible to participate in any after-school activity.
 - 9 period day – 5 classes must be attended
 - 7 or 8 period day – 4 classes must be attended

Eligibility Committee and Study Center Facilitator

The Eligibility Committee shall be comprised of members of administration, guidance, and 2-4 teachers. The Study Center Facilitator will implement this eligibility policy by analyzing student grade reports. The Study Center Facilitator will work with the athletic director and BHS grade level APs to assist the advisors and coaches in communicating with students and parents. The Study Center Facilitator will implement the student's support plan, which includes, but is not limited to, attendance at Study Center, weekly status reports and communication with the students' school counselor.

Ineligibility and Study Center

Each student is expected to be aware of his or her eligibility status at all times. Students who need assistance with monitoring their progress should see their school counselor. Final grade point averages and 4th quarter attendance data will be used to determine eligibility for the first quarter of the following school year. This includes the transition from Bellport Middle School to Bellport High School. All subsequent quarters will use the quarterly average and attendance data of the previous quarter.

Students must adhere to the following conditions regarding Study Center:

- The student **must** attend Study Center regularly for the following marking period where he/she will make every effort to improve his or her grade point average. Upon the **second** unexcused Study Center absence, the student will be deemed ineligible to participate in any extra-curricular activities for the remainder of the marking period. (A student who is absent from school for the entire day or is sent home sick by the school nurse will not be expected to attend Study Center on that day and the day will not be counted as a "Study Center Absence".)
- The eligibility contract must be signed by both student and parent or guardian within five school days after the quarterly ineligibility list is published.
- Any student ineligible for two consecutive quarters with a grade point average of **60- 69** may continue to attend Study Center for the second of those quarters and remain eligible. **The student will meet with, and be evaluated every five weeks by the eligibility committee to**

show academic improvement will result in the student being deemed ineligible until the end of the quarter by the eligibility committee.

- Students must sign in at Study Center every day. They may receive extra help from their teachers, however, the teacher must sign the pass indicating that the student has attended. This pass must be returned to Study Center before the student leaves for the day.
- Any student forging a teacher's signature on a Study Center card will be deemed ineligible for the remainder of the year, regardless of academic average.

If a student is not prepared to work while in Study Center or exhibits disruptive behavior, he/she will be removed and lose credit for the day. If this behavior continues, the student will be dropped from Study Center and be deemed ineligible for the remainder of the quarter. Participation in all activities should be governed by the policy, with the exception of Graduation or seasonal concerts, which are co-curricular. The eligibility policy should be known to all and consistently enforced.

Alternative Placement Students

Any student in an outside placement (BOCES) or on Home Tutoring, would make a formal appeal to the Eligibility Committee. That appeal must include student's availability to comply with the South Country Athletic Department's practice guidelines, Section XI guidelines and must meet all other provisions of this policy. This will be determined by the provisions of the eligibility policy.

Appeal Process

A student who has been declared to be ineligible for any reason and who feels that he/she has grounds for an appeal, may register a formal written appeal **with the Eligibility Committee within five school days of being deemed ineligible. For an appeal to be considered, the student must submit a formal request in writing.** The committee will review the case and render a written decision within three school days.

The eligibility committee will consider academic performance, attendance, attitude and behavior. At all phases of the appeal process, decisions rendered will be in keeping with this policy and the stated rules and regulations governing eligibility.

Right to Due Process and Appeal

The decision of the Eligibility Committee regarding a violation of this policy other than a coach's supplementary rules may be appealed to the principal except as otherwise set forth herein. The appeal to the principal shall be in writing and delivered to the principal or the principal's secretary within three (3) school days of receipt of the Eligibility Committee's decision.

Grounds for appeal may include, but not be limited to:

- An error in the computation of the student's grade(s)
- Additional academic information not available to the Eligibility Committee when it rendered its decision
- Additional discipline information not available to the administration and/or Eligibility Committee when a decision was initially rendered
- Failure by the district to comply with the various time limits established by the policy

- Failure by the district to comply with the Academic Support Plan /Provisions
- Extenuating circumstances that adversely affect a student's performance

The following shall not represent sufficient grounds for appeal:

- Disagreement with the policy on philosophical grounds

The written appeal to the principal shall specify the ground(s) for the appeal and must include all supporting information, facts, and documentation. The parents and student shall have the opportunity to meet with the principal prior to a decision on the appeal being made. However, the time limit for the principal's written decision shall not be affected by the meeting, or lack thereof, with the parents and student. The principal shall provide a written decision to the parents and student within three (3) school days of the receipt of the written appeal.

The student shall remain ineligible until the principal renders a determination.