

ATTENDANCE, STUDENT CONDUCT AND ACADEMIC ELIGIBILITY FOR PARTICIPATION IN EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Eligibility for Extracurricular and Interscholastic Activities

The Patchogue-Medford School District encourages all students to participate in extracurricular and interscholastic activities. We recognize that these activities complement and supplement the academic programs of our middle and high schools; however, such participation is a privilege, not a right. They provide students with an opportunity to explore an area of interest and to develop specific skills. In addition to providing students an opportunity for their own enrichment and development, extracurricular and interscholastic activities add to the school district's total visibility as well as the community's involvement in our schools. They permit and encourage the adults of the community, as well as other community organizations, to participate and view the Patchogue-Medford District with pride.

The Board of Education has the authority to establish reasonable standards as prerequisites for eligibility for extracurricular and interscholastic activities. These standards apply to entry qualifications as well as to continued participation in such activities. Advisors/Coaches must disseminate a copy of the expected standards of conduct to all students and parents at the start of each school year, and participating students should be individually informed of the application and scope of such standards.

- Students must be reminded that they represent their school and their school district through their participation in these activities. They are role models for fellow students and, therefore, must act responsibly in their roles as students and participants

Eligibility and continued participation in extracurricular and interscholastic activities are a privilege extended to students, as opposed to a right, and the behavioral standards set forth in the District Code of Conduct apply to all students participating in any extracurricular or interscholastic activity. All student participants will be informed that they have the obligation to act in a responsible manner because of the leadership roles they play in the school environment and as a result are expected to adhere to policies accordingly.

Attendance Requirement

No student may participate in an extracurricular or interscholastic activity, practice, scrimmage or contest on a day that the student is absent from school, both excused and unexcused unless a school/district administrator grants special dispensation to the student for the absence in advance. Additionally:

- Students must be present in school for a minimum of five (5) periods on the day of an activity to be eligible for participation.
- Students may not participate in extracurricular activities on the day of a suspension.

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Attendance Requirement (Continued)

- Students who have been sent home and are awaiting the start of a suspension may not participate in athletics or extracurricular activities.

Student Conduct Requirement

A student who is suspended (either in-or out-of-school) will become ineligible for participation on **athletic teams or extracurricular activities** once **six (6) days of suspension** have been accumulated in a given school year. The school principal will send a letter to the parent of a child who has been suspended. In that letter, there will be a statement about this policy. There is no distinction between in-school and out-of-school suspensions.

Separate and apart from accumulated days of suspension coaches, advisors, and administration reserve the right to remove students from participation in extracurricular activities because of disciplinary infractions that occur on/off the court/field due to behavior/action(s) that are in any way related connected to the team that is deemed unbecoming. Such removal may be temporary or permanent, depending on the severity of the infraction and the discretion of the relevant authority figures. Coaches and Advisors must review such instances with the Academic Director prior to removing a student from an Interscholastic Team and/or an extracurricular activity.

Appeals Process

- Students and parents/guardians have the right to submit an appeal regarding their eligibility for participation in extracurricular activities.
- Appeals must be submitted in writing to the building principal. Requests for appeal must be made two (2) weeks prior to the start of the Interscholastic Season as outlined by the NYSPHSAA season calendar.
- The administration will convene a committee to review the appeal and respond in writing within a reasonable timeframe. The committee will be made up of the following representatives: building principal or designee, academic director, school counselor, and when possible, the coach/advisor.

Determination of Academic Eligibility

A student with two (2) up to a maximum of three (3) marking period failures will be placed on probation for a four (4) week period during which time the student will remain academically eligible to participate in athletics or extracurricular activities. Students with four (4) or more marking period failures are disqualified.

1. Academic eligibility for fall activities shall be determined by the fourth quarter report card issued the previous June, the first quarter progress report issued in October and/or the first quarter report card issued in November.

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Determination of Academic Eligibility (Continued)**

2. Students with two (2) up to a maximum of three (3) marking period failures for the fourth quarter report card will be placed on probation for a four (4) week period at the beginning of the fall semester.
3. Students earning passing marks during the summer for the failed course(s) will not be subject to the probationary period in the fall.
4. Academic eligibility for winter activities shall be determined by the first quarter progress report issued in October, the first quarter report card issued in November, the second quarter progress report issued in December and/or the second quarter report card issued in February.
5. For the Middle School Winter II Sports Season, eligibility will be determined by the first quarter report card issued in November and/or the second quarter progress report issued in December.
6. Academic eligibility for spring activities shall be determined by the second quarter report card issued in February, the third quarter progress report issued in March, the third quarter report card issued in April and/or the progress report issued in May.
7. Any student who was deemed ineligible and/or disqualified for activities at the end of a school year and either did not attend summer school or failed summer school, will begin the fall semester on probation.
8. An Academic Support Plan shall be developed with the assistance of guidance, administration, and the eligibility committee. Verbal and/or written notification will be made to parents of students placed on academic probation once the applicable progress report and/or report card has been distributed.

Any student failing two (2) up to a maximum of three (3) marking period failures shall be placed on Probationary status and shall continue until a student is passing all course subjects as indicated by the quarterly report card only. Further, at the completion of the first four (4) week cycle of probation, if a student is still failing two (2) up to a maximum of three (3) marking period subjects, the student will become ineligible for participation in extracurricular and interscholastic activities and will be monitored accordingly. If the student continues to fail two (2) up to a maximum of three (3) marking period subjects after the second four (4) week cycle, the student will be disqualified from further participation. Probationary students who fail to hand in weekly progress reports on time, turn in incomplete reports, or have not met the requirements in the academic plan will be ineligible until the next weekly report has been reviewed and met the criteria for participation.

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An Academic Support Plan shall consist of:

1. Regular attendance and participation in before- and/or after-school support as noted on the student's weekly progress report
2. School counselor support
3. Weekly Eligibility Reports for each subject that should include, but are not limited to:
 - a. Weekly class attendance
 - b. Weekly academic average
 - c. Quarterly academic average to-date
 - d. Homework assignments given and completed
 - e. Teacher comments on weekly performance
 - f. Extra help/tutoring/mentoring, attendance and participation

Weekly Eligibility Reports shall be sent home electronically to parents on a weekly basis. Following the four (4) week period of Probationary status if a student continues to fail any two (2) up to a maximum of three (3) marking period subjects as indicated by the quarterly progress reports, the quarterly report card, and/or the Weekly Eligibility Reports, the student will be disqualified from all activities for the duration of the season. Notice of disqualification will be sent home to the parents of students by the Eligibility Committee. Disqualification shall continue if a student fails two (2) or more subjects, as indicated by the quarterly progress report, the quarterly report card and/or the Weekly Eligibility Reports.

Interpretation of Policy

The following terms/definitions will be used regarding the interpretation of the Eligibility Policy:

- **Probation:** The student will be permitted to participate in the total activity but it will be subject to weekly review.
- **Ineligible:** The student will be excluded from all contests, performances and competitions for a period but is entitled to attend and participate in practices and meetings.
- **Disqualified:** The student will lose the privilege to participate in all extracurricular, co-curricular and interscholastic activities during the period imposed.

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