2026-2027 - DISTRICT #709 BEHAVIOR REGULATIONS

STUDENTS RESPONSIBILITY

- Students must serve a consequence in each activity in which they participate – MSHSL, Duluth High School Intramurals, Activities, and Fine Arts. Penalties may be served concurrently.
- Due Process including appeals procedure as defined in the MSHSL bylaw 213.02,8.

All penalties:

1. Are in effect year round (including summer and off-season.)
2. Carry over from school year to school year.
3. Carry over from sport/activity to sport/activity.
4. Are applied to MSHSL violations that occur anywhere and any time.
5. Student fully agrees to fully cooperate in any investigation honestly and truthfully.

Determination and notification of violations:

1. Any violation(s) of the MSHSL or ISD 709 policy known to a coach/advisor must be reported to the Activities Director and/or Principal in writing immediately upon learning of the violation.
2. The Principal and Activities Director are responsible for administering this policy and declaring a student ineligible. The Principal and Activities Director will conduct a thorough investigation prior to reporting findings in the case.
3. Written notification of a student's ineligibility and the reason for such should be provided to the parent, student, and the coach/advisor.
4. Serving a penalty: Students who are not in good standing due to suspension, expulsion, injury, illness, family vacations, etc are not able to be placed in a game, meet or contest and are therefore not able to count those contests toward the penalty).
5. A copy of this notification must be kept on file in the High School Activity Director's Office until the student graduates. All and any paperwork will be shredded immediately after the student no longer participates.

***MOOD-ALTERING CHEMICALS - Reference MSHSL Bylaw 205**

Twelve (12) months of the year, a student shall not at any time, regardless of the quantity: (1) use or consume, have in possession a beverage containing alcohol; (2) use or consume, have in possession tobacco; or, (3) use or consume, have in possession, buy, sell, or give away any other controlled substance or drug paraphernalia, (4) use or consume, have in possession, buy, sell or give away products containing or products used to deliver nicotine, tobacco products and other chemicals. "Tobacco products" means: any product containing, made, or derived from tobacco that is intended for human consumption, whether chewed, smoked, absorbed, dissolved, inhaled, snorted, sniffed, or ingested by any other means, or any component, part or accessory of a tobacco product, (5) use or consume, have in possession, buy, sell or give away any substance or product where the intent of such use of the substance or product is to induce intoxication, excitement, or stupefaction of the central nervous system, except under the direction and supervision of a medical doctor. Such substances or products shall include, but are not limited to, synthetic drugs, gasoline, glue, aerosol devices, bath salts, and any substances addressed by Minnesota or Federal law.

Student Code of Responsibilities - Reference MSHSL Bylaw 206

As a student participating in my school's interscholastic activities, I understand and accept the following responsibilities:

1. *I will respect the rights and beliefs of others and will treat others with courtesy and consideration.*
2. *I will be fully responsible for my own actions and the consequences of my actions*
3. *I will respect the property of others.*
4. *I will respect and obey the rules of my school and the laws of my community, state and country.*
5. *I will show respect to those who are responsible for enforcing the rules of my school and the laws of my comm., state and country.*

A student ejected from a contest shall be ineligible for the next regularly scheduled game or meet at that level of competition and all other games or meets in the interim at any level of competition, for the first ejection. All subsequent ejections shall result in ineligibility for four (4) regularly scheduled games or meets.This suspension can be deemed longer or shorter based on the violation and is up to the discretion of the building principal.

SEXUAL/RACIAL/RELIGIOUS HARASSMENT / VIOLENCE and HAZING - Reference MSHSL Bylaw 209.00

A student shall not engage in the sexual, racial, religious harassment, violence or hazing during the school year or any portion of an activity season that occurs prior to the start of the school year or after the close of the school year.

Reporting Procedures:

1. Any person who believes he or she has been the victim of sexual, racial, religious harassment, violence or hazing or any person with knowledge or belief of conduct, which may constitute hazing, shall report the alleged acts immediately to an appropriate school district official designated by this policy.
2. The building principal is the person responsible for receiving reports of sexual, racial, religious harassment, violence or hazing at the building level. Any person may report hazing directly to a school district human rights officer or to the superintendent.
3. Teachers, administrators, officials, volunteers, and employees of the school district shall be particularly alert to possible situations, circumstances or events which might include sexual, racial, religious harassment, violence or hazing. Any such person who receives a report of, observes, or had other knowledge or belief of conduct, which may constitute sexual, racial, religious harassment, violence or hazing, shall inform the building principal immediately.
4. Submission of a good faith complaint or report of sexual, racial, religious harassment, violence or hazing will not affect the complainant or reporter's future employment, grades or work assignments.

Reprisal

The school district will discipline or take appropriate action against any student, teacher, administrator, volunteer, coach, official contractor or employee of the school district who retaliates against any person who makes a good faith report of alleged sexual, racial, religious harassment, violence or hazing or against any person who testifies, assists, or participates in an investigation, or against any person who testifies, assists or participates in a proceeding or hearing relating to such sexual, racial, religious harassment, violence or hazing. Retaliation includes, but is not limited to, any form of intimidation, reprisal or harassment.

FAIR HEARING PROCEDURE — The League Constitution provides a Fair Hearing Procedure for the student or parent contesting a school's determination of ineligibility for a student. The student has 10 calendar days in which to appeal the school's decision. The appeals process includes an appeal before a hearing panel at the school and the right, if desired, to appeal that decision to the League's Board of Directors. An independent hearing examiner will hear the appeal and make written findings of fact, conclusions and a recommendation for the Board of Directors following the hearing. The Board's decision shall be final. A complete listing of the Fair Hearing Procedure may be obtained from the athletic director or principal of the high school or on Web at www.mshsl.org in the Publications section.

First Offense

1. After confirmation of the first violation, The student shall lose eligibility for the next two consecutive interscholastic contests or two weeks, 14 calendar days, whichever is greater, of a season in which the student is a participant. Students must remain during the season and finish the season in good standing in order for the penalty to be considered served.
2. The student shall make arrangements with the respective coach or advisor to establish a plan for reentry with the team or group.

A team/group/club, in conjunction with the coach/advisor as well as the knowledge and approval of the activities director and principal, may increase the severity of a penalty. The coach/advisor shall clearly communicate in writing any changes or additional consequences to the parents and students prior to the season.

Second Offense

1. After confirmation of the second violation, The student shall lose eligibility for the next six consecutive interscholastic contests or three weeks, 21 calendar days, whichever is greater, in which the student is a participant. Students must remain during the season and finish the season in good standing in order for the penalty to be considered served.
2. The student shall make arrangements with the respective coach or advisor to establish a plan for reentry with the team or group.

Third Offense (and subsequent):

1. The student shall lose eligibility for the next 12 consecutive interscholastic contests or four weeks, 28 calendar days, whichever is greater, in which the student is a participant. Students must remain during the season and finish the season in good standing in order for the penalty to be considered served.
2. The student shall make arrangements with the respective coach or advisor to establish a plan for reentry with the team or group.
   A student who chooses to become a participant in a treatment program may become eligible for participation after a minimum period of six weeks after entering treatment if all of the following conditions are met:
   a) The student is assessed as chemically dependent, enters treatment voluntarily, and the director of the treatment center certifies that the student has successfully completed the treatment program.
   d) The treatment option cannot be used for the first or second violation. Successful completion of a chemical dependency treatment program will satisfy only the most recent violation. Any other violations for which the penalty has not been satisfied must still be served in full.

Penalties for Category II Activities and Clubs

Definition - Category II Activities: Those League-sponsored activities in which a member school does not have a schedule of interscholastic contests, exclusive of League-sponsored tournaments. Includes Fine Arts Activities:

1. Speech, Debate, Drama, Knowledge Bowl, Robotics, and Math Team, and One Act Play
2. Music Activities.
3. Visual Arts Activities.Each member school shall develop penalties which it will apply to the participants in these activities.

After confirmation of the first violation, The student shall lose eligibility for the prescribed time period set by the Principal. The student must remain during the season and finish the season in good standing in order for the penalty to be considered served.

Denial Disqualification: A student shall be disqualified from all interscholastic athletics for nine (9) additional weeks beyond the student's original period of ineligibility when the student denies violation of the rule, is allowed to participate and then is subsequently found guilty of the violation.

I understand that this policy works in conjunction with the MSHSL policy and will supersede the State League's policy.

There also may be other ramifications due to the violation, some being, but not limited to: consideration being eliminated for All Conference, Team Captain, Team Awards, and School Awards.

ISD #709 Academic Eligibility

A. Academic Eligibility - (Including enrollment at ALC, AEO, CITS, Homeschool or an online school)

At the conclusion of each grading period, a student cannot have an F on a report card and must not have a "U" in conduct given by the administration. If a student receives an F on a report card, the student is ineligible as described below. Students must be making progress towards graduation.

No "F" for a grade period or final grade for a class.

B. Ineligibility Status

Ineligibility is described as a period of time in which the student **may practice but not participate in activities/games/contests**. Grades will be reviewed the Friday of the fourth week of the marking period.

- The student must have no F's and no administrative "U" in conduct on that day to gain eligibility.
- For **consecutive grade period violations,** a student is **ineligible** to participate until the issuance of the next report card.
- Ineligibility is described as a time the student may continue to practice but may not participate in any games or contests - **nor may the student attend road games if missing any class/school is required.**
- If an "F" is changed to a passing grade, the student can become eligible immediately
- An "I" is considered a failing grade due to a loss of course credit. If the "I" is resolved, the student may gain eligibility.
- An "NC" will be equivalent to an "F" for purposes of eligibility
- *A student who fails a class during the fourth grading period, but passes the class for the semester will be ineligible in the fall. If the class is offered, students **may** take summer school to regain eligibility from a class/quarter failed in the spring.*
- *If a student receives OSS or is placed in an alternate to suspension program (including but not limited to PAWS), they are unable to participate in any after school activities / athletics, including practices, competitions, & games.*

Fall 2026:

Eligibility review date for students who received an F in a class during Quarter 4 of the previous school year is **September 18, 2026.**

FALL ONLY: A student with consecutive grade period F's will be ineligible until October 2, 2026 - If the student is passing all classes October 2, 2026, they will be eligible for competition on Friday, October 2, 2026.

Winter 2026-27:

Eligibility review date for students who failed a class in Quarter 1 – **December 4, 2026

End of 2nd grade period – January 21, 2027 (All grades checked when report cards are issued)

Eligibility review date for students who failed a class end of Quarter 2 – **Thursday, February 26, 2027

End of 3rd grade period – April 2 (All grades checked when report cards are issued)

Spring 2026:

Eligibility review date for students who failed a class in Quarter 3– **May 7, 2027

End of 4th grade period – **June 10 (All grades checked when report cards are issued)

Credit Eligibility

At the conclusion of the first semester and end of the school year, students must be making satisfactory progress toward graduation based on the credit schedule listed below. If a student falls below the credit requirements, they may be deemed ineligible for a period of time as determined by the building principal.

1. Freshman need to have 2.5 credits at semester.
2. Incoming 10th grader (sophomore) – 6.0 credits, 8.5 credits at semester
3. Incoming 11th grader (junior) – 12.0 credits, 14.5 credits at semester
4. Incoming 12th grader (senior) – 17.0 credits, 20.5 credits at semester

5. Current seniors need 23.5 credits, current juniors and beyond need 24.
    - *A student who turns 20 during the 11th or 12th semester since first entering 7th grade shall be allowed to participate through the completion of the 12th semester (MSHSL Bylaw 101.00)*

Less Than A Normal Course Load

All students must be fully enrolled (as defined by the Minnesota Department of Education) – minimum of five classes and one study hall unless they are enrolled in PSEO. Students must be on track to meet the school's graduation requirements in six years (12 consecutive semesters) beginning with the first day of attendance in the 7th grade.

Special Education Programs

These rules are applicable to students enrolled in Special Education programs; exceptions, with regard to academic performance and conduct, would be noted in the student's Individual Education Plan (IEP). An IEP cannot make exceptions to established academic standards.

ISD 709 Alternative Learning Center (ALC)

Students fully enrolled in ALC may participate at East or Denfeld where their attendance area resides.

Administrative Prerogative

The Principal reserves the right to declare a student eligible or ineligible for any appropriate period.

Home School Eligibility is based on State Statute

- Student must reside in the schools home attendance area (Ie - Denfeld or East)
- Home school must be registered with ISD 709

Online Eligibility

- Students enrolled in an online school like Academic Excellence Online (Duluth Public Schools) or Minnesota Virtual Academy (MNVA), are fully eligible at either East or Denfeld - where their attendance area resides.
- If a student enrolls at an online charter school (Minnesota Transitions/Connections Academy) then that student is eligible to participate at that charter school.
- Not all online schools are created equally in the eyes of the MSHSL. Contact the activities director at East or Denfeld if you have any questions.

Cooperative Agreements

It is School District policy that ISD709 does not participate in cooperative agreements with charter or private schools. This is a decision by the school board.

- We do not offer cooperative sponsorships or articulation agreements with private or charter schools, they would take opportunities to participate away from our own students.
- Students enrolled at other schools would be eligible at their own school, or if they form a co-op with another MSHSL school.
- This includes students from; Edison, Marshall, Lakeview Christian Academy, Holy Rosary (and other parochial schools), Stella Maris High School, Harbor City, Online Charter Schools, and Montessori etc. Students from these schools are eligible at their school only, not Denfeld or East

Attendance:

- Students must be in attendance at school at least 2 hours at the end of the day in order to PRACTICE or participate in GAMES. Any unexcused absences on a game day may result in a one game suspension.
- Daily regular attendance is mandatory - included study halls. Unexcused absences = no practice or no games.
- If a student is at a medical appointment, emergency, college visit, or school related activity – accommodations can be made!
- Communicate with the AD or Coach in advance, and must be signed by the doctor, dentist, or be a family emergency.

- Student athletes must be in attendance the following day of an away event. Students are not allowed to “sleep in.”