INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETICS

Participation by students in athletic competition is a privilege subject to Board policies and regulations. While the Board takes great pride in winning, it emphasizes and requires good sportsmanship and a positive mental attitude as prerequisites to participation.

The Superintendent and administrative staff schedule frequent conferences with all physical education instructors, coaches and athletic directors to develop a constructive approach to physical education and athletics throughout the District and to maintain a program that is an educational activity.

Interscholastic athletic programs are subject to approval by the Board. The building principal is responsible for the administration of the interscholastic athletic program within his/her school. In discharging this responsibility, the principal consults with the athletic directors, coaches and physical education instructors on various aspects of the interscholastic athletic program. It is the responsibility of the principal and his/her staff to ensure the proper management of all athletic and physical education programs and the safety of students and the public.

The Board may require that students pay reasonable fees to participate in interscholastic athletics.

Coaches are required to complete all approved course work as specified by State law, the Ohio High School Athletic Association (OHSAA) and the State Board of Education in order to qualify to serve as coaches.

In the conduct of interscholastic athletic programs, the rules, regulations and limitations outlined by State law must be followed. Programs regulated by OHSAA must also comply with all eligibility requirements established by the Association. It is the responsibility of the District's voting delegate to OHSAA to advise the management team of all pending changes in OHSAA's regulations.

A student must have the written permission of his/her parent(s) and shall have been determined as physically fit for the chosen sport by a licensed physician.

All students participating in interscholastic athletics must be covered by insurance. This insurance may be available for purchase through the District. If parents choose not to purchase insurance provided by the District, the parent(s) must sign a waiver ensuring that private coverage is provided.

As character building is one of the major objectives of interscholastic athletics, the athlete assumes responsibility for regulating his/her personal life in such ways as to make him/her a worthy representative of his/her school.

Any student may be suspended from an athletic team practice and competition for a period of time, designated by the principal, for infractions of school rules and regulations or for any other unacceptable conduct in or out of school.

Resident Students Enrolled in Community Schools

Resident students enrolled in community schools are permitted to participate in the District's interscholastic athletics program at the school to which the student would be assigned. Students must be of the appropriate age and grade level as determined by the Superintendent, and must fulfill the same academic, nonacademic and financial requirements as any other participant.

Resident Students Enrolled in STEM and STEM schools

Resident students attending STEM and STEAM schools are permitted to participate in the District's interscholastic athletics program at the school to which the student would be assigned. Students must be of the appropriate age and grade level as determined by the Superintendent, and must fulfill the same academic, nonacademic and financial requirements as any other participant.

Resident Students Enrolled in Nonpublic Schools

Resident students attending a nonpublic school are permitted to participate in the District's interscholastic athletic programs at the school to which the student would be assigned if the nonpublic school in which the student is enrolled does not offer the activity. Students must be of the appropriate age and grade level as determined by the Superintendent and must fulfill the same academic, nonacademic and financial requirements as any other participant.

Resident Students Enrolled in Home Education

Resident students receiving home education in accordance with State law are permitted to participate in the District's interscholastic athletic programs at the school to which the student would be assigned. Students must be of the appropriate age and grade level as determined by the Superintendent and must fulfill the same nonacademic and financial requirements as any other participant.

Nonresident Students Enrolled in Home Education: Victim of Harassment

Nonresident students may be authorized by the Superintendent to participate in an interscholastic athletic program offered by a school of the District if the student is a home educated student or student attending a nonpublic, community, STEM or STEAM school or otherwise enrolled in another district and the student was subject to any of the following by as school official, employee or volunteer, or by another student from the district or school where the student is enrolled or participating in athletics:

1. Harassment, intimidation, or bullying, as defined by Ohio Revised Code (RC) 3313.666
2. A qualifying offense, for which the school official, employee, volunteer or another student has been charged with, indicted for, convicted of or pled guilty to committing or is alleged to be or is adjusted as a delinquent child for committing. A qualifying offense

is defined as an offense or attempt to commit an offense of violence or a violation of RC2907.07

3. Conduct by a school official, employee, or volunteer that violates the Licensure Code of Professional Conduct for Ohio Educators. A home educated student who meets these criteria must be of the appropriate age and grade level as determined by the Superintendent and must fulfill the same nonacademic and financial requirements as any other participant.

Student Athlete Mobility Act

A student enrolled in a neighboring high school as defined by RC3313.5321 which does not offer an interscholastic athletic program may petition to participate in that program at a high school of the District in the following manner:

1. the student wishing to participate petitions the Superintendent/designee . The Board directs the Superintendent/designee to design forms for this purpose. Such forms may include but not be limited to forms developed by OHSAA.

   a. before petitioning to participate at a school of this District, if the district in which the student is enrolled operates multiple high schools., the student must first petition to participate in the program at another high school operated by that district, if one offers that program. If that petition has been denied, the student enrolled in the neighboring district may petition to participate in a program at a high school of this District:

2. the superintendents or chief administrative officer of both districts must approve the student's participation in the program;

3. the superintendent or chief administrative officer of the school district in which the student is enrolled must certify that the student has not participated in that program in their school district during the same school year;

4. the student is of the appropriate age and grade level for the interscholastic athletic program as determined by the Superintendent and fulfills the same academic, nonacademic, and financial requirements as any other participant including trying out for a position in the program.

A student is not eligible to petition to participate in an interscholastic athletic program solely because the school in which the students is enrolled does not offer the competition level at which the student wishes to compete (ie., varsity, junior varsity or freshman team).

A student shall not participate in the same interscholastic athletic program at more than one high school on any one school year. If a high school participates in a regular season contest for a program and subsequently ceases offering that program prior to the conclusion of that program's season, a student enrolled in that school is not eligible to petition to participate in that program until the next school year.

Nonresident Students Enrolled in Home Education

A student receiving home education in accordance with State law who is not entitled to attend school in the District may be authorized by the Superintendent to participate in interscholastic athletic programs offered by a school of the District. The activity must be one the district the student is entitled to attend does not offer.

Nonresident Students Attending Nonpublic schools

A student attending a nonpublic school located in the District who is not entitled to attend school in the District may be authorized by the Superintendent to participate in an extracurricular activity offered by a school of the District that is interscholastic athletics or interscholastic contests or competitions in music, drama or forensics when:

1. the activity is one the school in which the student is enrolled does not offer;
2. the student is not participating in the activity in the student's district of residence;
3. the superintendent of the student's district of residence certifies the student has not participated in any extracurricular activity that is interscholastic athletics or interscholastic contests or competitions in music, drama or forensics in the district for that school year and
4. the Superintendent and the superintendent of the student's district of residence mutually agree in writing to allow the student to participate in the activity.

Nonresident Student and Ice Hockey

A student enrolled in another district may participate in ice hockey in the District if the district in which the student is enrolled does not offer ice hockey as an interscholastic athletic activity when:

the student's district is less than 20 miles away;

1. the student is not required to enroll in or be a resident of the district that offers ice hockey;
2. the student is of the appropriate age and grade level and fulfills the same academic, nonacademic, and financial requirements as any other participant, including trying out for a position on the team and
3. the superintendents of both school districts enter into an agreement approving the student's participation in ice hockey at the school district in which the student is not enrolled.

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December 20, 2023
October 16, 2024
October 15, 2025
October 21, 2026

Legal References:

ORC 2305.23, 2305.231
ORC 2907.07
ORC 3313.537, 3313.5310, 3313.5311, 3313.5312, 3313.5313, 3313.5314, 3313.536, 3313.539, 3313.66
3313.6610, 3313.661, 3313.664, 3313.666
ORC 3315.062
ORC 3319.303
ORC 3321.042
ORC 3707.52
OAC Chapter 3301-27

Cross References:

ACA- Nondiscrimination
ACAA - Nondiscrimination on the Basis of Sex
ACB - Nondiscrimination on the Basis of Disability
GCBB - Professional Staff Supplemental Contracts
GDBB- Support Staff Pupil Activity Contracts
IGCH (Also LEC) - College Credit Plus
IGD - Cocurricular and Extracurricular Activities
IGDJA - Drug Testing of Students in Extracurricular Activities
IGDK - Interscholastic Extracurricular Eligibility
IKF - Graduation Requirements
JECBA - Admission of Exchange Students
JECBB - Interdistrict Open Enrollment (Adjacent District)
JECBC - Admission of Students From Non-Chartered or Home Education
JECBD - Intradistrict Open Enrollment
JGD - Student Suspension
JGE - Student Expulsion
JN - Student Fees, Fines and Charges
Student Handbook