EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES AND STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS  

The Cleveland County Board of Education (the “Board”) recognizes the value of interscholastic athletics and extracurricular activities in promoting leadership and team skills, practicing democratic principles, and encouraging the lifelong learning process. Students are encouraged to participate in opportunities available at the school, including interscholastic athletics and student organizations. Extracurricular activities are available only to a student enrolled in Cleveland County Schools. All activities are open to all students attending that school unless a restriction is justified and has been approved by the principal. The principal shall ensure that students and parents are notified of the various opportunities for participation in extracurricular activities.

All student organizations must be authorized by the school principal and have a faculty sponsor approved by the principal. No secret organizations will be permitted. Clubs or organizations established and sponsored by outside agencies or groups are not considered student organizations and shall not function on school grounds or during the school day unless authorized by the principal.

A. EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITY REQUIREMENTS

Participation in extracurricular activities, including student organizations and interscholastic athletics, is a privilege, not a right, and may be reserved for students in good academic standing who meet behavior standards established by the Board and the school. Participation in extracurricular activities may be restricted if a student (1) is not performing at grade level; (2) has exceeded the number of absences allowed; (3) has violated the school rules or student code of conduct standards.

Students serving an out of school suspension or assigned to In-School Suspension (ISS) or participating in an alternative to suspension program shall not participate in interscholastic activities or practices during the assigned time and may regain eligibility the next day following completion of the suspension or other related discipline programs.

In addition, in order to be eligible for interscholastic athletics participation, students must meet all applicable eligibility standards of the North Carolina High School Athletic Association, the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction, and any locally established requirements for interscholastic athletics participation.

All students participating in interscholastic activity must carry student accident insurance available through the system or provide evidence of comparable coverage. Students participating in interscholastic athletics must complete an annual physical examination by a licensed physician and submit to the school athletic director a completed North Carolina High School Athletic Association Sport Pre-Participation Examination Form prior to participation in any practice or athletic contest.

School administrators choosing to exercise the authority to restrict participation based upon any of the reasons provided shall provide this policy and any additional rules developed by the Superintendent or the principal to all parents or guardians and students. A student or
parent who is dissatisfied with the principal's decision on an eligibility decision at the school level may appeal in writing to the Superintendent or designee in accordance with the Student and Parent Grievance Policy.

B. **SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES**

1. Students with disabilities must be accorded the legal rights required by federal and state law.

2. School administrators shall facilitate the inclusion and participation of transitioning military children in extracurricular activities, to the extent they are otherwise qualified, by:
   a. providing information about extracurricular activities to transitioning military children; and
   b. waiving application deadlines.


Adopted: August 13, 2018

Revised: July 22, 2019

Replaces: Board policy 4500, Co-Curricular Activities and Athletics, and policy 4510, Student Activities