Policy

**STUDENT ACTIVITIES AND ORGANIZATIONS**

*Code* **JJ/JJA** *Issued* **DRAFT/19**

The board regards student activities at the elementary and secondary school level as a vital part of the district’s educational program. However, participation in such activities is a privilege—not a right—and students will be expected to comply with all district and school policies and regulations and to rise to the standards and expectations set forth by the coach or advisor.

Principals are encouraged to ensure that activity offerings are of sufficient variety and number to meet the wide range of ages, interests, and needs of students. Schools should use student activities as a means of developing fairness, compassion, honesty, responsibility, respect, and courtesy, as well as knowledge and skills.

Principals will be responsible for the approval of all student activities and will provide adequate supervision and administer student finances with the assistance of delegated staff members. All activities will be supervised, and all clubs, groups, and teams will have a member of the district staff serving as its advisor or coach. Delegated staff will properly supervise and operate all student activities in accordance with district and school policies and regulations.

Membership and/or participation in student activities will be open to all students or will be based on objective criteria (e.g. scholarship, grade level, proficiency or skill level). These criteria must permit all students to compete for membership without prejudice as to race, religion, sex, color, disability, national origin, immigrant status, English-speaking status, any other applicable status protected by local, state, or federal law. Under no circumstances will membership eligibility in a student activity be determined by the subjective judgment of the students constituting the club.

**Interscholastic Activities**

Interscholastic activities include school-sponsored activities for which preparation occurs outside of the regular school day. Individuals or members of groups involved in activities which include out-of-school practice on more than one occasion weekly must meet eligibility requirements.

The board is responsible for the monitoring of all interscholastic activities other than those under the jurisdiction of the South Carolina High School League. Rules of the South Carolina High School League govern interscholastic athletics. Additional information regarding interscholastic athletics may be found in policy JJI, *Interscholastic Athletics*.

Schools will determine academic eligibility at the beginning of each semester. Eligibility will be based on the previous semester’s record of courses taken and grades achieved.

To be eligible to participate in interscholastic activities, the student must achieve an overall passing average in addition to one of the following:

* To be eligible in the first semester, a student must pass a minimum of five Carnegie units applicable toward a high school diploma during the previous year. At least two units must have been passed during the second semester or summer school.
* To be eligible during the second semester, the student must meet one of the following conditions:
* If the student met first semester eligibility requirements, then he/she must pass the equivalent of four, 1/2 units during the first semester.
	+ If the student did not meet first semester eligibility requirements, then he/she must pass the equivalent of five, 1/2 units during the first semester.

*Option (for block scheduling)*

*In a 4 x 4 block schedule where units or 1/2 units are granted at the end of the first semester, the following will apply:*

* *if eligible first semester, must earn two units*
* *if not eligible first semester, must earn two and one-half units*

Academic courses are those courses of instruction for which credit toward high school graduation is given. These may be required or approved electives.

If the interscholastic activity occurs completely within one (1) semester, a student must satisfy these conditions in the semester preceding participation in the interscholastic activity. If the interscholastic activity occurs over two (2) consecutive semesters and is under the jurisdiction of the South Carolina High School League, the student must satisfy these conditions in the semester preceding the first semester of participation.

**Charter School Student Participation in Extracurricular Activities**

A charter school student is eligible to compete for, and if chosen, participate in any extracurricular activities not offered by the student’s charter school which are offered at the resident public school he/she would otherwise attend, as well as any activities governed by the South Carolina High School League not offered at the charter school. Eligibility requirements and fees for these activities will be the same as those applied to full time students of the resident school and the district may not impose any additional requirements for participation on charter school students that are not imposed on full time students.

**Home School Student Participation in Interscholastic Activities**

A student residing in the district and eligible to attend schools of the district who has been taught in accordance with state law governing home schooling requirements for a full academic year prior to participating in an interscholastic activity may be eligible to participate in the interscholastic activities of the school where he/she is zoned to attend.

For purposes of this section, interscholastic activities are those extracurricular activities of the district involving participation or competition among or between schools, including interscholastic extracurricular music, speech, athletic, and other such extracurricular activities.

**Charter School and Home School Student Eligibility**

The district will not allow an ineligible character or home school student to participate in any interscholastic and/or extracurricular activities.

Any challenge to a charter school or home school student’s approval, denial, or revocation of the privilege to participate in an interscholastic or extracurricular activity will be subject to the review and appeal procedures, if any, pertaining to the activity involved.

The superintendent or his/her designee will be responsible for disseminating this policy and supporting information to students, staff, parents/legal guardians, coaches, athletic directors, volunteers, and members of the community through means to include, but not be limited to, student/staff handbooks, athletic handbooks, district website, parent notifications, etc.

Cf. IHBG, IHBH, JJI

Adopted ^

Legal References:

1. United States Code of Laws, as amended:
2. Equal Access Act of 1984, 20 U.S.C.A. 4071.
3. Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, 29 U.S.C.A. Section 701, *et seq*.
4. Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act, 42 U.S.C.A. 12132.
5. Title IV of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, 42 U.S.C.A. Section 2000c, *et seq*.
6. Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, 42 U.S.C.A. Section 2000d, *et seq*.
7. Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, 20 U.S.C.A. Section 1681, *et seq*.
8. S. C. Code of Laws, 1976, as amended:
9. Section 59-1-435 - Religious Viewpoints Antidiscrimination Act.
10. Section 59-38-10 - South Carolina Education Bill of Rights for Children in Foster Care.
11. Section 59-39-160 - Requirements for student participation in interscholastic activities.
12. Section 59-63-40 - Discrimination on account of race, creed, color, or national origin prohibited.
13. Section 59-63-100 - Equal Access to Interscholastic Activities Act.
14. Section 59-63-270 - Regulation or prohibition of clubs and similar activities on school property.
15. Section 59-63-425 - Transfer of high school students who are victims of physical abuse, harassment, or stalking by a classmate when restraining order is violated.
16. S.C. State Board of Education Regulations:

 1. R43-244.1 - Interscholastic activities: academic requirements for participation.