

5.12 -- STUDENT ACTIVITIES POLICY

Philosophy and Intent

The Board of Directors believes in providing opportunities for students to participate in extracurricular activities that can help enrich the student's educational experience. The Board believes that student participation in extracurricular activities cannot come at the expense of classroom academic achievement. Extracurricular activities are designed to be supplemental and supportive of basic education programs and (a) shall be of educational value to the participants, and (b) shall not interfere with regular classroom instruction.

Interruptions of instructional time in the classroom are to be minimal and absences from class to participate in extracurricular activities should not exceed an average of one per week per extracurricular activity (tournaments excepted). Additionally, a student's participation in and the District's operation of extracurricular activities shall be subject to the policy below.

Definitions:

Extracurricular activities are defined as any school-sponsored program where students from two or more schools are competing for the purpose of receiving an award, rating, recognition, criticism, or qualification for additional competition. Examples include, but are not limited to, interscholastic athletics, cheerleading, band, choral, math, science, other academic competition, and club activities.

Academic Courses are those courses that are identified in the Arkansas Department of Education's Standards for Accreditation of Arkansas Public Schools as one of the 38 course offerings or is a definable course for which class time is scheduled and which can be credited to meet the minimum requirements for graduation and is taught by a teacher required to have State certification in the course, and has been approved by the Arkansas Department of Education. Any of these courses for which concurrent high school credit is earned may be from an institution of higher education recognized by the Arkansas Department of Education. If a student passes an academic course offered on a block schedule, the course can be counted twice toward meeting the requirement for students to pass four (4) academic courses per semester as required by this policy.

Supplemental Instruction Program is an additional instructional opportunity for identified students outside of their regular classroom and meets the criteria outlined in the Arkansas Department of Education's Regulations Governing School District Academic Requirements for Student Participation in Competitive Interscholastic Activities.

The K-6 Extracurricular Program

Extracurricular Programs at the K-6 level will be supplemental to the regular educational program.

Extracurricular activities will be of educational value.

Extracurricular activities will not interfere with regular classroom instruction.

Absences from class for extracurricular activities will be kept to a minimum, with no activity scheduled which requires student to be absent from school for more than three consecutive days.

Academic Requirements: Junior High

A student promoted from the sixth to the seventh grade automatically meets scholarship requirements. A student promoted from the seventh to the eighth grade automatically meets scholarship requirements for the first semester. The second semester eighth-grade student meets the scholarship requirements for junior high if he/she has successfully passed four (4) academic courses the previous semester.

The first semester ninth-grade student meets the scholarship requirements for junior high if he/she has successfully passed four (4) academic courses the previous semester.

The second semester ninth-grade student meets the scholarship requirements for junior high if he/she has successfully passed (4) academic courses the previous semester which count toward his/her graduation requirements.

Ninth-grade students must meet the requirements of the senior high scholarship rule by the end of the second semester in the ninth grade in order to be eligible to participate the fall semester of their tenth-grade year.

Academic Requirements: Senior High

In order to remain eligible for competitive interscholastic activity, a student must have passed (4) academic courses the previous semester and either:

- A. Have earned a minimum Grade Point Average of 2.0 from all academic courses the previous semester; or
- B. Have met the “proficiency performance standard” as defined by the State Board of Education on the state criterion-referenced literacy end-of-course test in the eleventh-grade for twelfth-grade eligibility; or
- C. Have met the “proficiency performance standard” as defined by the State Board of Education on the state criterion-referenced algebra or geometry end-of-course tests, or have achieved at or above the 50th percentile on the Basic Battery on the norm-referenced test administered by the state, for tenth- and eleventh-grade eligibility, or
- D. If the student has passed four (4) academic courses the previous semester but does not meet 1, 2, or 3 above, then the student must be enrolled and successfully participating in a supplemental instruction program.

Students With an Individual Education Program (IEP)

In order to be considered eligible to participate in competitive interscholastic activities, students with disabilities must pass at least four (4) courses per semester as required by their individual education program (IEP).

Arkansas Activities Association

In addition to the foregoing rules, the district shall abide by the rules and regulations of the Arkansas Activities Association (AAA) governing interscholastic activities.

Legal References:

Arkansas Department of Education: Rules and Regulations Establishing the Academic Standards for Student

Participation in Competitive Interscholastic Activities

State Board of Education Standards for Accreditation (V)(E) and (V)(F)

Approved by Board of Education 06/07/04

Amended by Board of Education 01/12/16