

## **JJA – STUDENT EXTRACURRICULAR PARTICIPATION AND ELIGIBILITY**

Student activities are an important part of the educational process. The Board encourages students to participate in a wide variety of co-curricular activities. Any student organization must be recommended by the Principal and approved by the Board.

A. **ELEMENTARY & MIDDLE SCHOOL** - Elementary and middle school students will be eligible to participate in school-sponsored organizations and activities based upon age-appropriate criteria approved by the School Principal. Students/parents will be provided copies of such criteria prior to student participation. Any league or outside agency requirements will also apply.

B. **HIGH SCHOOL** - High school students will be eligible for participation in school-sponsored organizations and activities under the following guidelines:

**ELIGIBILITY** - In order to participate in extracurricular activities, students must meet these eligibility requirements.

1. Student must be in good academic standing per the guidelines contained herein. (Reference Academics and Suspension)
2. Student must exhibit habits and conduct in and out of school worthy to represent the standards of the Epping School District in all such extracurricular activities.

**PARTICIPATION** – The District allows students who are residents of the school district but who are enrolled in other schools – including charter schools, non-public schools, and home schools – to participate on an equal basis in any activity offered by the District that is not offered at a student's school of attendance, provided they meet the eligibility requirements for participation. Home school students may participate provided they comply with all laws governing non-public home-based education. Non-enrolled students participating in District co-curricular and extra-curricular activities are subject to the same fees charged enrolled students for the activity.

**ACADEMICS** – The following academic requirements apply to extracurricular eligibility.

1. Students must pass all classes with exceptions granted for one F per guidelines contained herein.
2. Students receiving an F in the first, second, or third quarter and in some cases fourth quarter are to be placed on a 3-week probationary period for extracurricular activities. The objective of the probationary period is for students to do what is necessary to achieve good academic standing for the course/class that was failed. In order for a student to remain eligible following the probationary period, passing grades must be maintained for the entire extracurricular activity period. School administration will provide a bi-weekly calculated progress report to communicate a student's academic standing and for a student to monitor their academic standing.
3. Students subject to the 3-week probationary period may attend the extracurricular activity during the probationary period, but not be able to represent the school in any competitions, exhibitions, or other such events. Eligibility to continue after the first three

weeks of probation in full capacity is subject to the student being in good academic standing (passing all classes) for the remainder of the activity.

4. Students receiving one F in the fourth quarter are eligible for extracurricular participation the following school year, if the student passes the class in summer school. If the class is not offered in summer school, eligibility will be permitted by taking a similar course where appropriate and subject to the 3 week rule and associated procedure stated above.
5. Students receiving one F in the second or fourth quarter, but overall pass the semester course, are still subject to the probationary period at the beginning of the next quarter and the associated procedure stated above at the beginning of the next quarter.
6. The School Principal may grant academic waivers where appropriate.

**USE OF ILLEGAL SUBSTANCES** – Students who participate in extracurricular activities shall not use, have in their possession, or be in the presence of underage/illegal substances including, but not limited to, illegal drugs, alcohol, tobacco, inhalants, and medications contrary to the manner for which they were prescribed. This policy applies to all participants and applies on or off school grounds, 24 hours a day. The following behaviors would constitute serious violations of this policy.

1. Drinking of alcoholic beverages.
2. Smoking or using tobacco in any form (under the age of 18).
3. Use of illegal drugs.
4. Being at a party where alcohol, tobacco, or illegal drugs are present and being used by minors.

Upon the School Principal's determination that there is reasonable evidence of a violation of this policy, the following actions will be taken. Such action is subject to the district's due process for discipline violations.

1. First Violation – Parents shall be notified. Student will be removed from participation for part or all of the extracurricular season based upon the offense. Student may be allowed to practice for competitive extracurricular events following all rules for the duration of the suspension. Student will not be allowed to participate, however, in competitive events during their suspension. Other rules outside the scope of the Epping School District may also apply. Student may be required to attend counseling, perform community service, and/or write a paper on the effects of committing the offense. The student may request a reduced penalty by submitting a rehabilitation plan incorporating counseling, community service, and/or paper. The student is responsible for following through with his/her plan and documenting such with the School Principal. The School Principal shall oversee the disciplinary process and determine the disciplinary action.
2. Second Violation – Parents shall be notified. If a student commits a second violation within twelve (12) months of the first violation, the student will no longer be allowed to participate for the extracurricular season in any capacity. The student will be removed from associating in any way with any sports or extracurricular activities in any season for a full year (12 months) from the date of the second violation. The student must attend counseling, perform community service, and/or write a paper on the effects of

committing the offense before making a petition for reinstatement to any sports team or extracurricular activity.

**SUPPORT** - Students are to receive calculated progress reports on a biweekly basis to monitor their academic success for extracurricular eligibility. A support system shall also be offered to provide assistance to students with academic difficulty. The school administration shall be responsible for putting a system in place that involves the students, parents, teachers, and extracurricular advisors, and promotes academic success with undue administrative complexity and hardship.

**SUSPENSION** - Any student who receives a suspension for disciplinary reasons will be ineligible to attend an extracurricular activity until the suspension is completed. Second suspensions during the extracurricular activity will result in the student's immediate dismissal.

**MONITORING** – The monitoring of this process is the primary responsibility of the School Principal or his/her designee.

Statutory/Regulatory/Policy/Handbook Cross References

Handbook (Referenced in Handbooks)

APPROVED/REVISED: September 22, 2005, March 22, 2007, August 20, 2009