

### Students – Extracurricular Activities - Academic Eligibility for Participation in Extracurricular Activities

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The Newport School Department is committed to providing a well-rounded program of student activities for high school and middle school students as a complement to the education program. The School Committee recognizes that to best serve the vision and mission of the school system, extracurricular activities must not, in any way, supplant academics as the primary focus of the school system. The purpose of the policy herein enunciated is to establish minimum academic criteria that must be met by students to participate in school-sponsored extracurricular activities.

*Definition:* extracurricular activities are voluntary activities available to students beyond the regular school day, not required for the satisfactory completion of a particular class. These activities may include (this listing is non all-inclusive) the following: athletic teams, cheerleading, school plays and musicals, school clubs, running for elective office (Student Government Association or class officer), and non-required trips by performing groups (bands, choirs, etc.).

The following rules will govern academic eligibility for student participation in all extracurricular activities. In order to remain eligible for extracurricular activities, both high school and middle school students must show an effort to pass all courses.

1. Students who pass all their courses in a given quarter are academically eligible to participate in extracurricular activities; and so are students who get passing grades for all courses at the mid-quarter marking period. The question of ineligibility arises *only* for those students who have a failing grade at the end of the quarter or mid-quarter.
2. At each mid-quarter and at the end of each quarter, every student will be informed in writing as to whether or not he/she is eligible for participation in extracurricular activities; and at the mid-quarter, if a student is in danger of failing a course and thus losing eligibility, the student will be informed in writing of this danger.
3. Students who are given warning at the mid-quarter progress report that they are in danger of failing and who subsequently receive a failing grade for that quarter will become immediately ineligible

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for extracurricular activities. At a minimum, this ineligibility will continue until the mid-quarter progress report of the next quarter, at which time the student, if he/she receives notification that he/she is passing, once again becomes eligible. If however the student's mid-quarter progress report does not give notification that he or she is achieving a passing grade, the student will continue to be ineligible at least until the end of the quarter.

4. If a student fails a course at the end of a quarter but was *not* given mid-quarter notice of being in danger of failing, that student will remain eligible up until the next mid-quarter progress report. If that report indicates that the student has a passing grade, the student will remain eligible. If however the next mid-quarter progress report indicates that the student continues to have a failing grade in the course, the student will become immediately ineligible and remain ineligible until at least the end of the quarter.
5. In the event that a student has a failing grade for the *final* marking period of his/her matriculation in any given course, he/she will regain eligibility if he/she passes *all* his/her courses at the next mid-quarter marking period.
6. In the event that a student who has been promoted from Thompson Middle School to Rogers High School and is academically ineligible for participation in extra curricular activities in the high school freshman year based on the above criteria, he or she must successfully complete a summer credit recovery program to fully restore his or her academic eligibility. In the event that an appropriate academic recovery program is not available to the student, he or she must attend RHS 101 to temporarily restore his or her academic eligibility and receive passing grades in all courses at the first mid-quarter marking period to remain academically eligible to participate in extra curricular activities.

It is the responsibility of the school principal and athletic director (or equivalent person for cases of non-athletic extracurricular activities) to monitor an individual student's eligibility and work with the classroom teachers with the goal of assuring that all of our students involved in extracurricular activities achieve satisfactorily academic performance.

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#### Special Education Students

1. If a special education student becomes ineligible to participate in extracurricular activities, the student and/or his/her parent/guardian may contact the principal of the school and request the convening of an IEP team meeting in order to determine whether or not the student's academic ineligibility is the direct result of his/her handicapping condition.
2. The IEP team will convene at the earliest possible date following receipt of a request. In the case of athletic activities, the student may begin practicing with the team once the request is made. The student may not participate in any games until and unless the IEP team determines that ineligibility should be waived. In the case of nonathletic activities, the student may begin participating in preparatory activities (e.g., practices, rehearsals, etc.) once the request is made. The student may not participate in special events associated with that activity (e.g., performance, field trips, etc.) until and unless the IEP team determines that ineligibility should be waived.
3. The IEP Team will make a determination as to whether or not the student's academic ineligibility is a direct result of his/her handicapping condition and will notify the principal immediately of that determination.
4. If the IEP team determines that the student's academic ineligibility is the direct result of his/her handicapping condition, the principal will grant the waiver and declare the student eligible. The student may begin full participation in the extracurricular activities immediately. If the IEP team determines that ineligibility is not the direct result of the handicapping condition, then the student is not eligible to continue further participation.

#### Students with a 504 Plan

1. If a student with a 504 plan becomes ineligible to participate in extracurricular activities, the student and/or his/her parent/guardian may contact the principal of the school to request that the local 504 team convene to determine whether or not the student's academic ineligibility is the direct result of his/her

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physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities.

2. The 504 team will convene at the earliest possible date following receipt of a request. In the case of athletic activities, the student may begin practicing with the team once the request is made. The student may not participate in any games until and unless the 504 team determines that the ineligibility should be waived. In the case of nonathletic activities, the students may begin participating in the preparatory activities (e.g., practices, rehearsals, etc.) once the request is made. The student may not participate in special events associated with the activity (e.g., performances, field trips, etc.), until and unless the 504 team determines that the ineligibility should be waived.
3. The 504 team will make a determination as to whether or not the student's academic ineligibility is the direct result of his/her physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities which led to the student's ineligibility and will notify the principal immediately of that determination.
4. If the 504 team determines that the student's academic ineligibility is the direct result of his/her physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities, the principal will grant the waiver and declare the student eligible. The student may begin full participating in extracurricular activities immediately. If the 504 team determines that ineligibility is not the direct result of his/her physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities, then the student is not eligible to continue further participation.

#### **References:**

Rules of Regulations of the Rhode Island Interscholastic League  
Commissioner's Decision: Sarah G. v. Barrington School Committee  
Rogers High School Academic Eligibility Policy (Appendix)  
Thompson Middle School Academic Eligibility Policy

**History:** IGDA-R, Amended: 07/10/2008; Amended: 06/18/2012