

ELIGIBILITY FOR EXTRACURRICULAR, CO-CURRICULAR AND INTERSCHOLASTIC ACTIVITIES

The Bellmore-Merrick Central High School District encourages all students to participate in extracurricular, co-curricular and interscholastic activities. We recognize that these activities complement and supplement the academic programs of our middle and high schools; however, such participation is a privilege, not a right. They provide students an opportunity to explore an area of interest and to develop specific skills. In addition to providing students an opportunity for their own enrichment and development, extracurricular, co-curricular and interscholastic activities add to the total school district's visibility as well as the community's involvement in our schools. They permit and encourage the adults of the community, as well as other community organizations, to participate and view the Bellmore-Merrick Central High School District with pride.

The Board of Education has the authority to establish reasonable standards as prerequisites for eligibility for extracurricular, co-curricular and interscholastic activities. These standards apply to entry qualifications as well as to continued participation in such activities. Advisors/Coaches must disseminate a copy of the expected standards of conduct to all students and parents at the start of each school year, and participating students should be individually informed of the application and scope of such standards.

1. Students must be reminded that they represent their school and their school district through their participation in these activities. They are role models for fellow students and, therefore, must act responsibly in their roles as students and participants;
2. Prior to any potential disciplinary action being contemplated which could affect a student's continuation or removal, it is the responsibility of all members of the school community – staff, parents and students – to communicate with one another; and
3. All existing Board of Education policies and administrative procedures governing student discipline, as such discipline may impact upon a student's participation in a sport, club or activity, have precedence over any procedures incorporated into individual school's building guidelines.

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Eligibility and continued participation in extracurricular and co-curricular activities are a privilege extended to students, as opposed to a right, and the behavioral standards sets forth in the district Code of Conduct (Policy No. 5300) apply to all students participating in any co-curricular and/or extracurricular activity. All student participants, including athletes, will be informed that they have the obligation to act in a responsible manner because of the leadership roles they play in the school environment and as a result are expected to adhere to policies accordingly.

Advisors/coaches will adhere to the minimum school attendance requirements included in the Bellmore Merrick Central High School District's Attendance Policy (Policy No. 5100). No student may participate in an extracurricular, co-curricular and interscholastic activity, practice, scrimmage or contest on a day that the student was absent from school unless a school administrator grants special dispensation to the student for the absence.

Determination of Academic Eligibility

1. Academic eligibility for fall activities shall be determined by the fourth quarter report card issued the previous June, the first quarter progress report issued in October and/or the first quarter report card issued in November.
2. Students with two or more failures for the fourth quarter report card will be placed on probation for a five (5) week period at the beginning of the fall semester.
3. Students earning passing marks during the summer for the failed course(s) will not be subject to the probationary period in the fall.
4. Academic eligibility for winter activities shall be determined by the first quarter progress report issued in October, the first quarter report card issued in November, the second quarter progress report issued in December and/or the second quarter report card issued in February.
 - a. For the Middle School Winter II Sports Season, eligibility will be determined by the first quarter report card issued in November and/or the second quarter progress report issued in December.
5. Academic eligibility for spring activities shall be determined by the second quarter report card issued in February, the third quarter progress report issued in March, the third quarter report card issued in April and/or the progress report issued in May.

Any student who was deemed ineligible for activities at the end of a school year and either did not attend summer school or failed summer school, will begin the fall semester on probation.

A student with two or more failures will be placed on probation for a five (5) week period during which time the student will remain academically eligible to participate in co-curricular activities.

An Academic Support Plan shall be developed with the assistance of Pupil Personnel Services (PPS) and Eligibility Committee. Verbal and/or written notification will be made to parents of students placed on academic probation once the applicable progress report and/or report card has been distributed. Probationary status shall continue until a student is passing all course subjects as indicated by the quarterly report card only. Further, at the completion of the first five (5) week cycle of probation, if a student is still failing two or more subjects, the student will become ineligible for participation in extracurricular, co-curricular and interscholastic activities and will be monitored accordingly. If the student continues to fail two or more subjects after the second five (5) week cycle, the student will be disqualified from further participation.

An Academic Support Plan shall consist of:

1. Regular attendance and participation in before- and/or after-school mentoring
2. School counselor support
3. Weekly Eligibility Reports for each subject that should include, but are not limited to:
 - a. Weekly class attendance
 - b. Weekly academic average
 - c. Quarterly academic average to-date
 - d. Homework assignments given and completed
 - e. Teacher comments on weekly performance
 - f. Extra help/tutoring/mentoring, attendance and participation

Weekly Eligibility Reports shall be sent home to parents on a weekly basis. Following the five (5) week period of ineligibility, if a student continues to fail any two or more subjects as indicated by the quarterly progress reports, the quarterly report card or the Weekly Eligibility Reports, the student will be disqualified from all activities. Notice of disqualification will be sent home to the parents of students by the Eligibility Committee. Disqualification shall continue if a student is failing two or more subjects, as indicated by the quarter progress report, the quarterly report card and/or the Weekly Eligibility Reports.

Interpretation of Policy

The following terms/definitions will be used regarding the interpretation of the Eligibility Policy:

- Probation:** The student will be permitted to participate in the total activity but will be subject to review.
- Ineligible:** The student will be excluded from all contests, performances and competitions for a period of time but is entitled to attend and participate in practices and meetings.

Disqualified: The student will lose the privilege to participate in all extracurricular, co-curricular and interscholastic activities during the period imposed.

Eligibility Committee A committee of middle or high school faculty, staff and administration assigned to review attendance and academics with the tasks of investigating all reported violations of the Eligibility Code for validity and rendering decisions based on its findings.

Process of Determining Eligibility Status

During Academic Team meetings in each building, students who fail two or more courses will be identified. The assigned school counselor will conduct an academic intervention meeting with the student. The grade level administrator will generate a list of students who have been identified for violating the Eligibility Policy and share it electronically with Club Advisors and the Athletic Coordinator in each building, who will communicate with coaches as necessary. The Academic Support Plan will then be enacted and it will be the responsibility of the student to complete his/her Eligibility Report on a weekly basis and return it to the appropriate school counselor. The Eligibility Committee will reconvene at the appropriate time and the status of the student(s) under review will be determined accordingly.

Cross-ref: 5300, Code of Conduct
5100, Attendance

Ref: Education Law §§1709(3); 2801
Bush v. Dassel-Cokato Board of Ed., 745 F. Supp. 562 (D. Minn. 1990)
Matter of O'Conner v. Bd. of Ed., 65 Misc.2d 40 (1970)
Matter of Wilson, 28 EDR 254 (1988)
Matter of Keily, 24 EDR 138 (1984)
Matter of Miller, 23 EDR 23 (1983)
Matter of Moore, 22 EDR 180 (1982)
Matter of Clark, 21 EDR 542 (1982)
Matter of Vetter, 20 EDR 547 (1981)