

STUDENT ELIGIBILITY

It is the intent of the RSU 13 School Board to provide a wide array of activities to supplement the educational programs at middle and high schools. Because the academic programs take priority, in order to participate in these extra-curricular activities students must meet standards in academics, behavior, and attendance at school. Extra-curricular activities include, but are not limited to, athletics, clubs, drama, and school-affiliated service organizations. Each Principal shall identify which activities beyond those listed are considered extra-curricular for the purposes of this policy.

The goals of this policy are student engagement and accountability. To achieve these goals, schools offer academic support in an environment that allows impacted students access to extra-curricular activities.

In this policy, “Principal” is used to mean “principal or designee” and “parent is used to mean “parent or legal guardian.”

Keeping Students Engaged

The RSU 13 staff members strive to keep students engaged in their education and their school. Participation in extra-curricular activities can be an essential aspect of engagement. Academic success is the primary purpose of schooling, but for many students extra-curricular activities are the hook that keeps them connected to school. While many students are able to achieve a balance between these academics and activities, there are those that find this difficult. This policy attempts to assist all students achieve the balance, using activities as a means to keep engagement high.

Holding Students Accountable

Students are responsible for their academic success. When additional academic support is offered to restore eligibility status students are expected to follow the plan of action presented.

Students are responsible for their behavior. There is an expectation that students who participate in extra-curricular activities will conform to the school’s behavioral standards at all times.

Consequences for unacceptable behavior that conflict with extra-curricular activities will prevent the student from participating in those activities.

Students are responsible for attendance. They must be present on the days that extra-curricular activities - including practices, rehearsals, and competitions - are taking place. A student who is unable to attend school and classes on the day of an extra-curricular activity will not be eligible to participate in that activity on that day. Compelling circumstances such as a death in immediate family or extended physician’s appointment will be considered on a case-by-case basis and may be excused.

Academic Support

The Principal will designate the manner in which academic support is administered in each school. This includes, but is not limited to, a mandated after-school study hall for students on probation, mandatory attendance at the after-school homework club, and mandatory daily contact with the teacher of the class in which the student is struggling.

Coaches and activity advisors will be notified immediately by the Principal when a player is ineligible. All coaches/advisors are aware that academic support services and consequences for inappropriate behavior take precedence over competitions, practices, meetings, or other extra-curricular activities. Coaches/advisors are encouraged to take an active interest in the overall well being of the students under their supervision and to support and promote all assistance offered.

Students who are ineligible for extra-curricular activities will be notified immediately of their status. Parents of these students will be notified as soon as possible. If an academic support plan is necessary, that plan should be clearly communicated to the student and parents and each should be supplied with a written copy of that plan.

The policy identifies acceptable standards for students in grades 6-12 in three specific areas:

1. Academic Eligibility
2. Conduct Eligibility
3. Attendance Eligibility

RSU 13 Eligibility Standards Grades 6-8

This portion of the policy applies to all students attending RSU 13 schools in grades 6-8 who choose to participate in school-sponsored extra-curricular activities.

1. Academic Eligibility

Students participating in extra-curricular activities in grades 6-8 are expected to pass all of their classes to remain academically eligible to fully participate in those activities.

Grade checks will be conducted every two weeks throughout the school year to identify all students receiving a failing (F) or incomplete grade in any class. The Principal will check the list of students who have failing/incomplete grades against the active extra-curricular rosters. Students who have failing/incomplete grades, and are participants in extra-curricular activities, will be immediately notified they are on academic probation. When notified, the student will be advised of the academic support plan he/she must follow to restore eligibility. A written copy of this plan will be issued to the student and his/her parents.

During the period of academic probation, the student

- A. Will be allowed to participate in practices, rehearsals and meetings, and to attend home games/events connected with their activities as long as these events do not conflict with any element of the student's support plan;
- B. Will not be allowed participate in competitions, club activities, or plays;
- C. Will not be allowed to travel with teams, clubs or organizations to functions outside of the school if those functions, events, games that take place Monday-Thursday; and
- D. Will not be allowed to participate but will be allowed to travel with teams, clubs or organizations to functions outside of the school if those functions, events, games that take place Friday-Sunday.

As soon as the student's failing/incomplete grade is restored to standard, eligibility is restored. The Principal will receive confirmation of the student's restored status from the teacher of each class in which the student was struggling. Coaches/Advisors must await confirmation from the Principal before allowing students on academic probation to participate in competition.

Students in grades 6-8 receiving a failing grade at the end of the school year will be given a fresh start the following fall.

2. Conduct Eligibility

Consequences for unacceptable behavior at school will take priority over any extra-curricular activity.

A. Suspension

A student serving a school suspension (out of school or in school) will not be eligible to participate in any extra-curricular activities until the period of suspension concludes. Once this period concludes, the student will be eligible to participate fully in extra-curricular activities unless the Principal specifically identifies a different course of action.

Students who are ineligible for extra-curricular activities due to school suspension will not travel with teams to games, sit on the bench with teams during games, attend practice sessions, club or organization meetings or events, or attend any competitions held at the school they attend, until the period of suspension has concluded.

B. Detention

Detention will take priority over extra-curricular activities. A student serving detention must serve on the day prescribed by the Principal. If detention conflicts with any extra-curricular activity, the student will not participate in the activity on that day.

Students who miss travel with their team, club, or organization because of detention may not participate with that team, club, or organization on that day. The student is not permitted to travel to the away game in a private vehicle after detention has been served to be eligible to play that day. Students transported by private vehicles to away games on days when a detention or suspension has been served may not sit with the team on the team bench during the competition.

Students who skip mandated detentions and attend extra-curricular activities will be subject to additional consequences from the Principal and suspended from all extra-curricular activities for five (5) days.

3. Attendance Eligibility

A. Present All Day

Students must be present all day on the days in which extra-curricular activities, including practices, rehearsals, or competitions are taking place. A student who is unable to attend school and classes on the day of an extra-curricular activity will not be eligible to participate in that activity on that day.

B. Dismissed Early

Students who leave school early due to illness will not be eligible to participate in extra-curricular activities on that same day.

C. Exceptions

Compelling circumstances, such as a death in family or a physician's visit will be considered on a case-by-case basis by the Principal provided they are verified by a note from the parent.

Eligibility Standards Grades 9-12

This portion of the policy applies to all students attending RSU 13 schools in grades 9-12 who choose to participate in school-sponsored extra-curricular activities.

1. Academic Eligibility

Students participating in extra-curricular activities in grades 9-12 are expected to pass all of their classes to remain academically eligible to fully participate in those activities.

Grade checks will be conducted every two weeks throughout the school year. During these grade checks all students receiving a failing (F) grade in any class will be identified. The Principal will check the list of students who have failing grades against the active extra-curricular rosters. Students who have failing grades and are participants in extra-curricular activities will be immediately notified they are on academic probation. When notified, the student will be advised of the academic support plan he/she must follow to restore eligibility. A written copy of this plan will be issued to the student and his/her parents.

During the period of academic probation, the student

- A. Will be allowed to participate in practices, rehearsals and meetings and to attend home games/events connected with their extra-curricular activities as long as these events do not conflict with any element of the student's support plan;
- B. Will not be allowed to participate in competitions, games, club activities, or plays during their period of academic probation;
- C. Will not be allowed to travel with teams, clubs or organizations to functions outside of the school if those functions, events, games take place Monday-Thursday; and
- D. Will not be allowed to participate but will be allowed to travel with teams, clubs or organizations to functions outside of the school if those functions, events, games that take place Friday-Sunday.

The initial period of academic probation will last 10 school days. If all grades are up to standard at the end of this period, the student's eligibility will be restored. A student on academic probation must wait the full 10-day period for eligibility to be restored.

If the student's grades are not up to standard at the end of the initial 10 day probation period, the Principal will make a determination on the student's progress during the initial period. If the student has followed the academic support plan and improved his/her grades, the Principal may grant an additional 10-day probation period. Otherwise the student will be dismissed from all extra-curricular activities for the remainder of the season.

The Principals will receive confirmation of the student's grade from the teacher of the class in which the student was struggling. Coaches/Advisors will be informed by the principal when a student's eligibility is restored. Coaches/Advisors must await confirmation from the Principal before allowing students on academic probation to participate in competition.

Students in grades 9-11 who fail a class or who fail it for the final marking period of the school year will be flagged by the principal. If those students elect to participate in sports the following fall, they will be allowed to practice and participate in competitions as long all grades are passing. These students will be subjected to weekly grade checks throughout the fall sport season. If they fall below passing in any course, they will be placed immediately on academic probation.

2. Conduct Eligibility

Consequences for unacceptable behavior at school will take priority over any extra-curricular activity.

A. Suspension

A student serving a school suspension (out of school or in school) will not be eligible to participate in any extra-curricular activities until the period of suspension concludes. Once

this period concludes, the student will be eligible to participate fully in extra-curricular activities unless the Principal specifically identifies a different course of action.

Students suspended from school are prohibited from entering RSU 13 property during their period of suspension.

B. Detention

Detention will take priority over extra-curricular activities. A student serving detention must serve on the day prescribed by the Principal. If detention conflicts with any extra-curricular activity, the student will not participate on that day.

Students who miss travel with their team, club, or organization because of detention may not participate with that team, club, or organization on that day. The student is not permitted to travel to the away game in a private vehicle after detention has been served to be eligible to play that day. Students transported by private vehicles to away games on days when a detention or suspension has been served may not sit with the team on the team bench during the competition.

Students who skip mandated detentions and attend extra-curricular activities will be subject to additional consequences from the Principal and suspended from all extra-curricular activities for five (5) days.

3. Attendance Eligibility

A. Present All Day

Students must be present all day on the days in which extra-curricular activities, including practices, rehearsals, or competitions are taking place. A student who is unable to attend school and classes on the day of an extra-curricular activity will not be eligible to participate in that activity on that day.

B. Early Dismissal

Students who leave school early due to illness will not be eligible to participate in extra-curricular activities on that same day.

C. Exceptions

Compelling circumstances, such as a death in family or a physician's visit will be considered on a case-by-case basis by the Principal provided they are verified by a note from the parent.

Approved: 7/1/10