

HIGH SCHOOL EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITY ELIGIBILITY

Extracurricular activities ordinarily occur outside the school day; they include all Virginia High School League (VHSL) activities, marching band, clubs, plays, and the like. Tutoring programs designed to increase student academic achievement are not considered “extracurricular activities” for the purpose of this policy. Concert band, chorus, orchestra, ROTC, and strings are not extracurricular activities; they are classes for which students receive a grade.

Student extracurricular activities are an integral part of school life and are used as a means of developing wholesome attitudes and fostering good human relations traits, as well as knowledge and skills. These activities are supplementary to the basic courses of study, but often require as much careful planning and supervision as student experiences in the academic subject areas.

While it is desirable that students participate in such activities in order to fulfill their educational development, it is of paramount importance that such participation neither jeopardizes their academic achievement nor exploits their time and talents.

Grading Period

For the purpose of this policy, the term “grading period” shall be defined as an eighteen-week semester. For the purpose of this policy, the student’s eligibility or ineligibility shall be determined on the first day of the school year and on the first calendar day following the end of the first grading period as reflected in the Board-approved instructional calendar.

2.0 GPA Rule

In order to participate in any school-sponsored extracurricular activity, a student must maintain a 2.0 grade-point average (GPA) for the preceding semester.

Exemptions

1. A student who has a cumulative GPA of 2.5 or higher and whose GPA for a given semester falls below a 2.0 will be allowed to participate in extracurricular activities for the following semester.
2. A student who has a cumulative GPA between 2.0 and 2.5 and whose GPA falls below 2.0 may participate in extracurricular activities the following semester on a probationary basis through the approval of a one-time, single semester waiver. The student, his/her parent(s), or his/her guardian(s) may initiate the request for a waiver. The waiver must be submitted on the appropriate form: **2.0 GPA Rule Semester Waiver**.

(Continued)

3. The following items must be attached to the completed form: (a) the student's attendance record, (b) the student's disciplinary record, (c) the student's reason for falling below a 2.0 GPA, and (d) a plan to raise his/her GPA above 2.0 in the current semester. The student, the parent(s), the principal, the Supervisor of Health, Physical Education, Athletics, the Director of Science Education, and the Division Superintendent must sign the waiver. In addition, the student must satisfy all the scholarship requirements established by the Virginia High School League (VHSL). A student can only submit a waiver request once during his/her years of VHSL eligibility in Portsmouth Public Schools. A student whose GPA is below 2.0 may not apply for a waiver under any circumstances.

A student who receives a grade of "F" in more than one subject, including concert band, chorus, orchestra, strings, and physical education, shall be ineligible in a given semester regardless of the G.P.A. earned for that semester.

A student who is enrolled in a course such as concert band, chorus, orchestra, or strings which has an after-school component and who is declared ineligible shall participate in the scheduled class and will be permitted to perform in any concert, parade, or other related activity occurring after regular school hours since it is a part of the course requirements. However, marching band does not apply because a grade is not given.

After the distribution of the 18-week report cards, the guidance staff of each school shall notify each student and each coach and/or sponsor of a student's potential eligibility or ineligibility status for the next semester.

An incomplete grade for a semester shall be made up within five (5) school days of the date of the distribution of report cards. In unusual circumstances, the period may be extended by the principal. If otherwise eligible, a student may participate in extracurricular activities during the period that an "incomplete" is in effect.

In determining eligibility, any final grade earned in summer school shall be treated as a grade for the previous semester.

The provisions of this policy shall not apply to special education students and to other students whose eligibility must be determined in accordance with applicable federal and state laws and regulations.

A transfer student who enrolls during the first nine weeks of the semester shall be exempt from the requirements of this policy for the remainder of the semester, provided that he or she would have been eligible to participate in extracurricular activities in the division from which he or she transferred. A student who transfers after the first nine weeks of the semester shall be exempt from the requirements of this policy that semester and the next succeeding grading period, provided that the student would have been eligible in the division from which he or she transferred.

(Continued)

Enforcement of this policy shall be the responsibility of the Supervisor of Health, Physical Education, and Athletics, the Director of Science Education, building principals, athletic directors, coaches, and sponsors.

Adopted: October 17, 1996
Revised: November 20, 2003