

PARTICIPATION CODE FOR ACTIVITIES

BELIEF STATEMENTS

The Dubuque Community School District offers a variety of activities designed to enhance education by promoting additional interests and abilities in students during their school years and for a lifetime. The District believes that:

Participation in school activities is a privilege, conditioned upon meeting the eligibility criteria established by the board, administration, and individual activity coaches and sponsors.

Students who participate in activities serve as ambassadors of the school district throughout the calendar year, whether away from or at school.

Students who wish to exercise the privilege of participating in school activities must conduct themselves as good citizens both in and out of school at all times. They must serve as positive role models to other students and members of the community.

The middle schools and high schools will enforce the following policies and procedures for participation in activities. Activities include athletics, cheerleading, vocal and instrumental music, speech, and drama. Students participating in other activities such as student council, yearbook, newspaper, or school sponsored groups are covered by Policy 5200, Student Behavior: Expectations and Consequences, and bylaws of the sponsoring group.

ACADEMIC ELIGIBILITY

High Schools

To be eligible for an activity, a student must:

1. Be enrolled or dual-enrolled in school.
2. Be enrolled in at least four classes at all times.
3. Be under 20 years of age if participating in athletics, music or speech activities.
4. Be enrolled in high school for eight semesters or less if participating in athletics, music, or speech activities.
5. Have not been a member of a college athletic team nor trained with a college squad, nor participated in a college contest, nor engaged in that sport professionally.
6. Have met all district-to-district open enrollment requirements.

A student in grades 9 through 12 whose transfer between district high schools occurred due to a request for open enrollment is ineligible to compete at the varsity (“varsity” means the highest level of competition offered by the school) level for the first 90 school days of the transfer. This period of ineligibility may not apply if:

1. It is determined that the student was subjected to a founded incident of harassment and bullying which prompted the request for open enrollment.
2. It is determined that there are extenuating circumstances, which have been previously communicated to school staff, that substantially interfere with the student’s ability to participate in or benefit from the activities provided by a school.
 - a. A request identifying extenuating circumstances must be made to the Director of Activities and Athletics within 5 days of the approved open enrollment.
 - b. Within seven days the Director of Activities and Athletics will convene the Review Committee comprised of district staff, not associated with the situation, to receive information from the student, parents/guardians, school staff and other pertinent individuals.

- c. The Review Committee can make the following recommendations:
 - i. Maintain the period of ineligibility for the full 90 school days.
 - ii. Reduce the period of ineligibility.
- d. The decision of the Review Committee shall only be based on the information shared at the appeal.
- e. The Review Committee shall report their decision to the Director of Activities and Athletics who will inform the student and parents/guardians of the decision.

Special education students or students covered by a Section 504-B plan that is directly related to their course work shall not be denied eligibility on the basis of scholarship if the student is making progress, as determined by the school officials, towards the goals and objectives on the student's IEP or accommodation plan.

Coursework taken under the provisions of Iowa Code Chapter 261C, Postsecondary Enrollment Options, shall be used in determining eligibility.

Grades will be checked four times per year: At the end of the first nine weeks, at the end of the first semester, at the end of the third nine weeks, and at the end of the second semester.

If a student is not passing all subjects at the end of the first nine (9) weeks of either semester, the school will provide appropriate interventions and academic supports.

A. Athletics

- 1. If a student is not passing all subjects at the end of a grading period (semester), the student is ineligible for the first period of thirty (30) consecutive calendar days in the interscholastic athletic event in which the student is a contestant. Start Date as defined by IGHSAU/IHSAA.

B. Music

- 1. If at the end of any grading period (semester) a participant receives a failing grade in any course for which credit is awarded, the participant is ineligible to participate in any competitive event sanctioned by the IHSMA or any IHSMA sponsored event that is non-graded (event doesn't affect course GPA) within a period of 30 consecutive calendar days. Students receiving a failing grade are ineligible to participate in non-graded music events which are not sponsored by the IHSMA (e.g. Musical). The period of ineligibility will begin with the first school day following the day grades are issued by the school district.
 - a. Students receiving a failing grade are ineligible to participate in non-graded music events which are not sponsored by the IHSMA (e.g. Musical).

C. Speech & Theater

- 1. If at the end of any grading period (semester) a participant receives a failing grade in any course for which credit is awarded, the participant is ineligible to participate in any event sanctioned by the IHSSA or IHSSA sponsored event within a period of 30 consecutive calendar days. Students receiving a failing grade are ineligible to participate in speech and theater events, which are not sponsored by the IHSSA. The period of ineligibility will begin with the first school day following the day grades are issued by the school district.
 - a. Students receiving a failing grade are ineligible to participate in speech and theater events, which are not sponsored by the IHSSA.

Middle Schools

Any student who wishes to participate in activities must meet the scholarship requirements after each of the marking periods (Progress Reports and Report Cards)

A. Athletics

Marking periods will be checked for eligibility every 20 calendar days.

- a. Students with one (1) failing grade will be on probation for competitions/performances until the next marking period.
 - i. If acceptable progress is achieved, the student will no longer be on probation and will be considered in good standing.
 - ii. If acceptable progress is not achieved, the student will become ineligible for competitions/performances until acceptable progress is achieved.
 - Acceptable progress is determined by administrator/activities director.
- b. Students with two (2) or more failing grades will be ineligible for competitions/performances until acceptable progress is achieved.
 - i. All failing grades must meet acceptable progress in order to return to competitions/performances.

B. Fine Arts

Marking periods will be checked for eligibility every 20 calendar days.

1. Musical
30 calendar days prior to the first performance students with 2 or more failing grades may be ineligible for one or all performances.
2. Extra- Curricular Musical Activities
Students with 1 failing grade will be on probation for competitions/performances until the next marking period.
 - If acceptable progress is achieved, the student will no longer be on probation and will be considered in good standing.
 - If acceptable progress is not achieved, the student will become ineligible for competitions/performances until acceptable progress is achieved.
 - Acceptable progress is determined by administrator/activities director.

Special education students or students covered by a Section 504-B plan that is directly related to their course work shall not be denied eligibility on the basis of scholarship if the student is making progress, as determined by the school officials towards the goals and objectives on the student's IEP or accommodation plan.

ATTENDANCE

In order to participate in practice or in a contest/event on that day a student must attend the last three (3) periods of his/her school schedule. However, the student may be granted permission to participate by the Assistant Principal – Activities/Athletics or designee upon review of the reason for absence. Students are expected to be in attendance for all classes on the day following a contest/event.

CONDUCT

Students participating in the Activities Program are expected to observe the DCSD Student Behavior Policy 5200 as well as the following:

Participants must refrain from –

1. Possession, use, purchase or sale of tobacco products, regardless of the student's age.
2. Possession*, consumption, or purchase of alcoholic beverages. (Consumption includes having the odor of alcohol on one's breath.)
3. Possession*, use, or purchase of illegal drugs or the unauthorized possession, use, or purchase of otherwise lawful drugs (including steroids), look-alike drugs, or drug paraphernalia.
4. Sale, distribution of, or providing location for the illegal consumption of controlled substances or alcohol. (Such a violation will carry a third offense penalty.)
5. Being in a car or in attendance at a social function or party where alcohol or other illegal drugs are illegally available to or being consumed illegally by minors.
6. Engaging in any act that would be grounds for arrest or citation in the criminal or juvenile court system, excluding minor traffic offenses, regardless of whether the student was cited, arrested, convicted or adjudicated for the act(s). Examples include, but are not limited to theft, possession of stolen property, vandalism.
7. Inappropriate or offensive behavior. Non-exclusive examples include fighting, insubordination, refusing to cooperate with authorities, teachers, or school administrators, hazing or harassment of others, or any behavior that is not in the best interest of the district. Hazing is defined as any humiliating or dangerous activity expected of a new or potential member of a group regardless of the individual's willingness to participate.

*Possession in numbers 2, 3 and 5 is considered to be any presence while illegal transportation and/or consumption is taking place with knowledge that the illegal activity is occurring and failure to leave the location.

CONSEQUENCES

When the administration has reasonable grounds to believe that a student has violated the above conduct rules, the following procedures may be followed:

1. Administrator and student conference. Communication with Parent/guardian
2. Suspension from a number of regularly scheduled contests/performance
 - A. First offense – Consult tables for specific penalty
 - B. Second offense – Consult tables for specific penalty
 - C. Third – One calendar year
 - D. Fourth Offense- Loss of extra-curricular participation
3. Communication to parent /guardian and coach/sponsor

Successful completion of a suspension includes the following guidelines:

1. If the student is currently involved in an activity, the suspension begins immediately and includes only those dates in which the student could or would have been a participant. State sponsored dates are included in the suspension. The suspension includes all scheduled events at the student's current level of competition.
2. If the suspension is not completed during a current activity, it will carry over to the next activity in which the student participates. No awards will be given until the suspension is completed.
3. To avoid participating in an activity for the purpose of fulfilling a suspension, the student must complete the season in good standing.
4. A student involved in two or more activities which occur simultaneously will be suspended from both (all) of them. (Consult tables)
5. The participant must attend all practices/rehearsals /contests during the period of suspension.
6. Violations will not be carried over as part of the record when the student moves from eighth to ninth grade. Prior violations will be carried over from ninth through twelfth grade.
7. In those activities that receive academic credit, suspension shall not affect the student's grade.

8. The penalties listed above are not exclusive. In addition to or in lieu of such penalties, a student may be denied the privilege to participate on a temporary or permanent basis.

REDUCTION IN PENALTY

1. Admission Prior To Determination: Self-reporting of any behavior that could be construed as a violation of the Participation Code prior to knowledge of civil or school authorities may result in the suspension being reduced by one half. The purpose of this option is to provide a mechanism in which the student can receive assistance.
2. Evaluation and Treatment: A student who has a violation of the alcohol, tobacco, or drug provisions of the Participation Code may elect to seek an evaluation performed outside school and, if recommended, treatment from a recognized substance facility at the student or student's parent/guardian's expense. If the student seeks the evaluation, agrees to waive confidentiality, and allows the facility to report the recommendations for treatment, the student's suspension may be reduced by one half upon written confirmation of participation in the treatment program.
3. Behavior: Students who have violated provisions regarding inappropriate or offensive behavior may seek to reduce the penalty by entering into a Behavior Contract. The contract shall be in writing and could include apologies to affected parties and restitution where appropriate. Signatures of student, parent(s), coach/sponsor, and administrator are required. The reduction shall not exceed one-third of the penalty.
4. After the 4th offense and a 365-day no participation suspension, the student may be reinstated by the following guidelines:
 - a. Zero conduct violations in the last 365 days;
 - b. Must be following all guidelines of the Iowa High School Athletic Association/Iowa Girls Athletic Union;
 - c. Must have remaining eligibility.

APPEAL PROCEDURE

1. District Level Hearing
 - a. Date of request – Within 5 school days of notification of parents by principal/designee. Request should be made in writing to District Activities Director.
 - b. Date of hearing – Within 7 days from the day the request is received, unless an extension is mutually agreed upon.
 - c. Participants – Student, parent(s)/guardians, Administrative Review Board (Superintendent or designee, two administrators from schools other than the school from which the appeal is filed, two coaches from schools other than the school from which the appeal is filed).
 - d. Procedure
 - i. The hearing will be held in private. The Board may limit attendance to allow orderly procedure.
 - ii. A record of the hearing shall be made by tape recorder. The tape shall be kept by the district for a minimum of 30 days and shall be made available to student or parent(s)/guardians upon request.
 - iii. The principal or designee shall present evidence in behalf of the recommendation for suspension.
 - iv. The student, student's parent(s)/guardians, or attorney shall present the student's version of or refutation of the allegation through explanation, documents, witnesses.
 - v. Witnesses at the hearing or persons, whose testimony has been submitted, in written form, shall be subject to cross-examination by any party as is necessary for a full disclosure of the facts.

- vi. The decision of the Administrative Review Board shall be based only on evidence introduced at the hearing.
- e. Results
The Administrative Review Board shall report the decision to the District Activities Director who will inform the student and parent(s)/guardians of the decision.

Revised: March 14, 2004
Revised: July 17, 2017
Revised: August 13, 2018
Revised: January 11, 2021

Cross Reference:
6209, 6210, 6213

SUSPENSIONS

Athletics

High School

SPORT	FIRST OFFENSE (Dates on Schedule)	SECOND OFFENSE (Dates on Schedule)
Baseball	5	10
Basketball/Cheerleading	5	10
Bowling	3	6
Cross Country	2	4
Football/Cheerleading	2	4
Golf	3	6
Soccer	3	6
Softball	5	10
Swimming	3	6
Tennis	3	6
Track	4	8
Volleyball	4	8
Wrestling/Cheerleading	4	8

Middle School

SPORT	FIRST OFFENSE (Dates on Schedule)	SECOND OFFENSE (Dates on Schedule)
Basketball	2	4
Cross Country	2	3
Dance	1	2
Football	1	3
Track	1	3
Volleyball	2	5
Wrestling	1	3

When a reduction of penalty occurs, the remaining penalty will be rounded up. (Ex. 5 game suspension, reduced to 2 ½, penalty would be 3 games)

*Suspensions from a second offense are in addition to suspensions from a first offense.

SUSPENSIONS

Music

High School

Dubuque Community School District students involved in curricular music groups will be expected to participate in all graded (curricular) performances of the music group. Violations of the Participation Code for Activities will cause students to be withheld from the non-graded/extra-curricular portion of the music group's performance schedule at the same rate as that of activities that are totally non-graded/extra-curricular.

Occasionally, students who participate in graded (curricular) music groups also participate in non-graded (extra-curricular) activities such as sports or clubs. Students participating in both graded and non-graded groups will be expected to participate in the graded (curricular) performances and suspended from the non-graded/extra-curricular performances as a result of the code violation.

SUSPENSIONS

Music/Speech/Theatre

Middle School/High School

ACTIVITY

FIRST OFFENSE

SECOND OFFENSE

Band, Color Guard, Orchestra, &
Vocal Music

Extra-Curricular Event

Next 2 Extra-Curricular events

Musical

One performance

Two performances

SUSPENSIONS **Speech/Theatre**

High School

ACTIVITY

Speech

Individual Events

First Offense: Removal from event.

Pay entry fee.

Second Offense: Removal from event – Not allowed to audition or participate in the next speech event.

Pay entry fee.

Lose consideration for awards.

Large Group

First Offense: Prior to fourth week of rehearsal – Removal from event.

Pay portion of entry fee.

After third week of rehearsal – Student is allowed to perform but not allowed to audition for speech next event.

Second Offense: Removal from event.

Lose consideration for awards.

Not allowed to audition for or participate in next speech/theatre event.

Pay portion of entry fee.

Theatre

Fall/Spring Production

First Offense: Prior to third week of rehearsal – Removal from show.

After third week of rehearsal – Allowed to perform but cannot audition for next theatre event.

Lose consideration for awards.

Second Offense: Prior to third week of rehearsal – Removal from show.

After third week of rehearsal – Allowed to perform but cannot audition for next two theatre events.

Lose consideration for awards.

Unscripted

First Offense: Removal from next two performances.

Removal from leadership positions.

Cannot audition for next speech/theatre event.

Second Offense: Removal from Troupe for remainder of the school year.

Lose consideration for awards.

**DUBUQUE COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT
PARTICIPATION CODE FOR ACTIVITIES
SIGNATURE PAGE**

By affixing my signature to this form, I affirm that I have read the Participation Code for Activities. I understand all the rules governing participation in the Dubuque Community School District activities programs and I agree to abide by those rules.

Name of Activity: _____ Date: _____

Student Signature: _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____