

RYE CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT
RYE, NEW YORK

5275

**ELIGIBILITY FOR MIDDLE SCHOOL/HIGH SCHOOL
EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES**

The District recognizes the educational value of student participation in extra-curricular activities and strives to provide a well-balanced program of extra-curricular activities (including athletics, theater, clubs and organizations) which will respond to a variety of student interests and needs.

The District requires that the following standards for eligibility be met by students in order for them to participate in extra-curricular activities:

1) Maintain a Full Schedule

A student is expected to carry a program of 5 classes (or the equivalent) plus physical education and regularly attend classes to maintain their eligibility to fully participate in extra-curricular activities. If a student has a confirmed unexcused absence from school and/or class, the student shall be ineligible for extra-curricular activities for a period to be determined by the principal or designee. If the school or class attendance problem persists, the principal or designee may declare the student ineligible to participate in extra-curricular activities for the remainder of the quarter.

2) Maintain Standards for Academic Performance

All middle and high school students must achieve a 70 average with no failures or a maximum of one failure with a plan to remediate that failure to be eligible to fully participate* in extra-curricular activities. Academic eligibility is based on quarter grades, not semester or final grades.

If a student has a minimum quarterly GPA of 70 and is failing one course only, and the students' initial failure in that course is at the end of quarters 1, 2, or 3, the student will be ineligible for active participation in extra-curricular activities for a minimum of five school days from the date of report card distribution. If a student is declared ineligible for a 5-day period, the student will be allowed to attend practices as an observer rather than a participant. The student will not be allowed to participate in practices, athletic contests, performances, productions and/or major club/activity events. During this period of ineligibility, the students is responsible for developing an Achievement Plan (found in the Assistant Principal's office at RHS) or Contract (RMS) with the assistance and the approval of the teacher whose course was failed and the approval of the student's advisor/coach. At

the High School, students are required to attend the Tutoring Center as a required part of maintaining eligibility once the plan is approved. At the Middle School, attendance is required during X-period with the teacher whose course was failed a minimum of 2 days per week. If a student is declared ineligible for a full quarter or after a five week probation, all involvement/participation is to cease for the period of ineligibility.

The goal for the Achievement Plan/Contract is to provide direction for the student in identifying what needs to be accomplished to meet minimum course requirements. The Achievement Plan/Contract will contain the following information:

1. Reasons for failure
2. A plan for addressing or overcoming those reasons.
3. Steps explaining how improvement will be achieved.
4. The period and days of the cycle that the High School student will be assigned to the Tutoring Center. At the Middle School, the days of the week the student will attend X-period or other supervised after-school study program.

The approved Achievement Plan/Contract must be submitted to and be endorsed by the Assistant Principal in order for a students' eligibility to be restored after the five day period. Failure to submit an Achievement Plan/Contract within the five day ineligibility period, or lack of adherence to the elements of the Achievement Plan/Contract, will cause the students to be declared ineligible for the remainder of the quarter.

All students who submit Achievement Plans or develop Contracts will have their performance reviewed at mid-quarter. At that time, if the teacher whose course was failed indicates that the student is currently passing the course, the students will remain eligible until the next report card (but the students must continue to attend the Tutoring Center (RHS) or X-period/supervised study program (RMS) until the end of the quarter or beyond or earn a minimum grade of 70% in the course that was failed). However, if at the mid-quarter review, the student continues to be failing, he/she will become ineligible for the balance of the quarter, and, of course, continue to attend the Tutoring Center/X-period or study program for academic support.

A student who fails two or more courses in one quarter is automatically ineligible for participation in extra-curricular activities for the following quarter and the student will be required to attend the Tutoring Center (RHS) or X-period/study program (RMS).

The Fourth Quarter/Final Grades

Students who fail a course in the fourth quarter but pass the course for the year shall maintain their eligibility for the following September. Students who fail one course for the

year are encouraged to attend summer school to make up the failure. A student with one failure for the year who does not attend summer school, or who attends summer school and does not pass, is eligible for extra-curricular activities in September provided an Achievement Plan is completed according to the procedures outlined above. A student who fails two courses for the year is encouraged to attend summer school.

If the two failures are remediated in summer school, eligibility is restored. If one failure is remediated, eligibility is restored provided an Achievement Plan/Contract is submitted within the first five days of the school year. A student who fails more than two courses without a successful summer school program that meets the eligibility standard shall remain ineligible. A student carrying two or more failures into the next school year shall be ineligible.

A student carrying one failure into the next school year but not continuing on in that course sequence shall meet with his or her Guidance Counselor to formulate a plan for success.

A student carrying two failures into the next school year will be ineligible.

At Rye Middle School, the Principal or designee may, at his or her discretion, choose to permit partial or full participation in extra-curricular activities based on extenuating circumstances.

Academic Performance Eligibility for Students with a Disability

When an IDEA or Section 504 student is in jeopardy of failing to meet minimum grade requirements, the Assistant Principal at the High School or at the Middle School shall convene a meeting of the Eligibility Committee. This meeting will be held to determine if the failure is related to the student's disability. If the failure is related to the student's disability, a referral shall be made to the Committee on Special Education [CSE] or Section 504 for a program modification. In addition, the Eligibility Committee will determine whether or not the student is eligible for participation in extra-curricular activities.

If a failure occurs that is not related to the student's disability, the standards for academic performance noted above shall be equitably applied.

The Eligibility Committee shall be made up of the administrator, the case manager, the student's guidance counselor, and the teacher, with the student and the student's parent(s)/guardian(s) in attendance.

3) Maintain Standards for School Citizenship

Every student is expected to be a responsible school community member and help create an orderly and supportive learning environment. Students who regularly follow District and school rules and regulations shall be eligible to fully participate in extra-curricular activities.

Students who do not obey District and school rules and regulations as defined by the District Code of Conduct (Policy #5300), all other District policies and regulations, and school expectations of student behavior found in student handbooks, may be ineligible for participation in extra-curricular activities.

Students suspended for possession and/or use of tobacco products, e-cigarettes, alcohol and/or other substances (as defined in Policy 5312.1, Alcohol and Substance Use/Abuse) or any drug paraphernalia will be suspended from extra-curricular activities for two weeks. Additional violation of school rules and regulations causing further suspensions may cause students to be declared ineligible by the Principal for the duration of the quarter, semester, or the year, depending on the seriousness of the infraction. The Superintendent will determine the length of extra-curricular activities suspension when longer school suspension is imposed at a Superintendent's hearing.

Attendance Criteria

Only students enrolled in the Rye City School District may participate in extra-curricular activities. Any student planning on attending or participating in an after school event **must attend a minimum of 6 periods** during the day of the event. If the student arrives late or leaves early from school on the day of the event, the periods missed must be considered a legal absence for the student to participate or attend the event.

*Fully participate is defined as practice and/or compete and/or take part in athletic competitions, practice and/or perform in theatrical performances or take part in other extra-curricular clubs/organizations.

Cross-ref:

- Board of Education Policy 1530, Smoking and other Tobacco Use on School Premises
- Board of Education Policy 5100, Student Attendance
- Board of Education Policy 5300, District Code of Conduct
- Board of Education Policy 5312.1, Alcohol and Substance Use/Abuse
- Rye High School Student-Parent Handbook
- Rye Middle School Student Handbook

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)

Adoption Date: June 30, 1998
Revised Policy Adoption Date: June 27, 2000
Revised Policy Adoption Date: June 25, 2002
Revised Policy Adoption Date: June 12, 2007
Revised Policy Adoption Date: June 16, 2015
Revised Policy Adoption Date: June 6, 2017