
ACADEMIC ELIGIBILITY POLICY
for
Athletics and Extra-Curricular Activities

The Harpursville Central Schools extends the privilege of extra-curricular activities to students who recognize their obligation to themselves, their co-participants and their school community while striving for academic excellence. It is the belief that Harpursville Central Schools educates the whole person and that athletics and extracurricular activities are a vital part of that education. This policy for eligibility for participation in sports or activities is intended to provide a guideline to insure that students are aware that such participation is predicated on meeting their academic requirements.

Extra-curricular activities are defined as any school activity that is non-credit bearing. Extra-curricular programs help provide valuable experiences and are, therefore, considered an integral part of the total educational program. Involvement in extra-curricular activities can have a positive influence on the academic achievement of students. It is the goal of this policy to help students successfully balance academics and extra-curricular activities.

As an overarching principle, this policy is intended to promote a fluid process of monitoring student progress and intervening with appropriate interventions in timely manner in order to aid the students in their pursuit of academic success.

Extenuating circumstances of students with unique needs will be considered by the building principal or his/her designee.

First Reading: August 17, 2009

Second Reading & Adoption: September 14, 2009

Definition of Levels of Participation/Intervention:

Gold (Full participation) –	full participation
Blue (Warning) –	“on-notice” with Individual Growth Plan resulting from 1 failing grade and/or at least 50% of grades for enrolled courses below 75%
Yellow (Probation) –	2 failing grades; student may continue to participate with Individual Growth Plan AND an initial 8 school day period to improve at least 1 of 2 grades to passing; adequate progress in meeting Growth Plan will also be considered
Orange (Probation with sanctions) –	more than 2 failing grades or from “yellow”; Individual Growth Plan is required so student may continue to practice, but student may not compete in contests or club activities; student has 12 school days to improve/demonstrate growth such that at least 50% of failing classes have been improved to a passing grade (i.e. failing 2, 1 must improve; failing 3, 2 must improve, etc.); if goals are achieved, then student will move to “blue” - must improve to have no more than one failing grade; adequate progress in meeting Growth Plan will also be considered
Red (Ineligible) –	No participation; Individual Growth Plan required so student may be able to practice with team or participate in activities at a date agreed upon by the appropriate school personnel, the student, the parents, and the coach/advisor. The student may not compete in any contests or participate in major club activities for the remainder of the season

GUIDELINES:

1. All students must conform to the discipline, attendance and punctuality standards of the school. The student Code of Conduct and the Comprehensive Attendance Policy provide expectations and parameters with respect to these areas.
2. For all students who wish to participate in an activity and/or sport in the fall, participation level will be based upon their report card previous June. Students who have multiple failures on the June report card, but successfully completed summer school will be subject to probation (blue level) for the first academic quarter.

3. At regular intervals throughout the school year and in an effort to routinely monitor student progress in the classroom, it should be understood that a student's participation level as defined in this policy can change at any time as a result of a review of the student's current performance level in one or all of his/her classes.
4. If it is determined that a student is failing or incomplete in one subject at the end of a five week marking period or any other time period when progress is reviewed, then the student will be placed in the "blue level". This means the student may continue to participate but will be required to contract regarding their school work. The contract or Individual Growth Plan will be written in consultation with all or some of the following: Student-Athlete, Coach/Advisor, Athletic Coordinator, Parent (if desired), Teachers, Administration, and Guidance personnel.

Students will be allowed to participate with one failing grade, while continuing the efforts to bring his/her grade up to passing. If it is determined that the student is not making a valid effort to correct his/her deficiencies agreed upon in the Individual Growth Plan, the student's participation level may be changed (i.e. to yellow, orange, or red) to impose more restrictions. Any student moved to the orange or red level must be reviewed and signed-off by the Superintendent, Principal, or his/her designee.

5. If a student is failing or incomplete in two subjects at the end of the five week marking period or any other time period when progress is reviewed, then the student will be placed in the "yellow level". This means the student may continue to participate, but has eight school days to bring at least one of the two subjects up to a passing grade and the student will be required to contract regarding their school work. The contract or Individual Growth Plan will be written in consultation with all or some of the following: Student-Athlete, Coach/Advisor, Athletic Coordinator, Parent (if desired), Teachers, Administration, and Guidance personnel. If after the eight school days, the student is still failing or incomplete in two subjects, he/she will be moved to the "orange level".
6. If a student is failing or incomplete in excess of two subjects, the student will be classified at the "orange level". In order to have any level of participation, the student will be required to contract regarding their school work. The contract or Individual Growth Plan will be written in consultation with all or some of the following: Student-Athlete, Coach/Advisor, Athletic Coordinator, Parent (if desired), Teachers, Administration, and Guidance personnel. The student will remain at the "orange level" until they achieve a minimum of the "blue level" requirements.
7. In extreme cases or when students do not fulfill the requirements of their Individual Growth Plan on multiple occasions or when falling below the orange level, students will be classified at the red level.

SUMMARY

It should be understood that it is not the intent of this policy to sanction student athletes or students involved in other extra-curricular activities. Any sanction will be the result of behavior patterns contrary to the student athletes Individual Growth Plan, the student Code of Conduct, the Athletic Handbook, and/or the Comprehensive Attendance Policy.

In each situation where the student is classified at a yellow, orange, or red level the parent or guardian will be informed, in writing, of the work being done to help the student improve. It is expected that the parents will be an active partner in the improvement process.

The Principal, Superintendent, or his/her designee retains the authority to deal with each student and their particular level of performance relating to academics, personal conduct, and attendance on a case by case basis as it relates to this policy.