

ACADEMIC ELIGIBILITY POLICY
FOR ATHLETICS AND EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Philosophy

The Board of Education in conjunction with the Superintendent, Administration and Faculty of the Catskill Central School District encourages student participation in athletics and extracurricular activities while recognizing the importance of maintaining academic standards. This policy reflects the common goals of sustaining academic achievement while participating in extracurricular activities.

It is the intention that this policy support education and serve as a guide to help participating students remain focused, maintain academic standards and remain eligible. Students who become academically ineligible will be given the opportunity to regain full eligibility status through adherence to the guidelines outlined in this policy. In the event that a student feels that he or she has been inappropriately deemed ineligible, he or she can appeal this decision as set forth in this policy.

General Academic Eligibility Statement

This policy applies to all extracurricular activities and includes all clubs and athletic teams. Participation in extracurricular activities is a privilege, not a right; therefore, students are expected to maintain a certain level of academic performance in order to participate in extracurricular programs. Academic performance will be monitored during the entire school year and students must meet the following criteria in order to participate in extra-curricular activities.

Academic Standard

The student is expected to attend school regularly, be in attendance for all classes scheduled and perform regular course work in all of his/her classes for each marking period. Students who are absent for other than an “authorized” absence will have three (3) school days to provide proof that such absence was authorized. If the unauthorized absence is not cleared, the student will be ineligible to participate in the next activity or game.

Student performance will be reviewed at the end of each progress report and marking period (further known as Eligibility Period). An eligibility list will be published after each progress report or marking period report is finalized - approximately every five weeks.

Eligibility Standards

1. Academic Probation

- a. If a student receives **one** comment of “currently not passing” on the progress report or **one** failure on the report card, he/she will be placed on academic probation for five weeks, except as set forth below (see 3b). For purposes of this policy “not passing” or “failing” is defined as a grade of less than 65%.
- b. A student on academic probation may fully participate in all extracurricular activities and interscholastic sports and is expected to make every effort to attend before and/or after-school study sessions – these are available every day and should be fully utilized in these cases.
- c. If after the next progress report or report card the student is still failing one course he/she will become “Ineligible to Compete.” (see 2b)

2. Ineligible to Compete

- a. If a student receives **two** comments of “currently not passing” on the progress report or **two** failures on the report card, he/she will be deemed as ineligible to compete, except as set forth below (see 3b).
- b. A student on ineligible to compete status will be allowed to participate in **practices only**, but may not participate in games, competitions or other activities for five weeks. During this period the student cannot dress, travel with the team to competitions or sit with the team. The student may attend home games and competitions. It is expected that the student will attend before and/or after-school study sessions. If the student’s situation improves after a minimum of two weeks within the five week period, the student may request reconsideration of ineligible to compete status.
- c. If after the next progress report or report card the student is still failing two courses he/she will convert to “Ineligible” status.

3. Ineligible Status

- a. If a student receives **three or more** “currently not passing” comments or **three or more** failures, he/she will be ineligible to participate in any extra-curricular activity for the next five weeks. It is expected that the student will attend before and/or after-school study sessions. If the student’s situation improves within the five week period, the student may request reconsideration of their ineligibility status.
- b. Notwithstanding the above, if a student athlete is failing physical education, even if it is his/her only failure, he/she will be in “Ineligible” status for ten weeks. During this period, the student athlete will not be permitted to dress, to sit with the team or travel with the team.

Tryout Period

Due to the brief and specific dates for athletic tryouts, auditions and certain extracurricular activities, students will be permitted to try out or audition, and will not be penalized due to their eligibility status. The ability to try out and audition does not give the student the ability to participate if selected unless he/she meets the Academic Standard.

Fall Sports & Extracurricular Activities

The June report card final grades will determine eligibility status for the next following school year. If proof of the student's successful completion of the courses in summer school is submitted to the High School Principal, the student's eligibility status will be restored.

Appeals

A student or his/her parent/guardian may request reconsideration or appeal the determination regarding the student's ineligibility status to the Academic Eligibility Committee. The Academic Eligibility Committee will be comprised of Administrators, Coaches or Advisors, Teachers and Guidance Counselors, but shall not include the student's coach/advisor for the particular sport or activity from which declared ineligible. At least five individuals must be present to make a determination.

If a student wishes to appeal a determination he/she must complete the "Appeal Form" in the principal's office.

It is the sole responsibility of the student or his/her parent/guardian to present specific facts and circumstances regarding the student's academic performance and provide proof that his/her academic performance has improved sufficiently to meet the standards as set forth in this policy. The committee shall examine the specific facts of each case, reach a consensus and render a decision within three school days of the appeal. During the appeal process, the student may not practice or play and/or participate in extracurricular activities. The decision of the appeals committee is final.