

STUDENT ACTIVITY PROGRAM

Participation in school activities is a privilege. School activities provide the benefits of promoting additional interests and ability in the students during their school years and for their lifetime.

Students will have an opportunity to participate in a school activity unless the activity is not offered or the student cannot participate for disciplinary reasons. If the activity is an intramural or interscholastic athletic activity, students of the opposite sex will have a comparable opportunity for participation. Comparable opportunity does not guarantee boys and girls will be allowed to play on each other's teams when there are athletic activities available that will allow both boys and girls to reap the benefits of school activities, which are the promotion of additional interests and abilities in the students.

With permission from a parent or guardian, an eighth-grade student may participate in interscholastic athletic contests or competitions at the high school level. An eighth-grade student who participates at the high school level cannot also participate on an eighth-grade team in the same sport during the same season. Students may not compete in both programs during the same sport season. Any eighth-grade student participating in high school athletics must meet the annual athletic physical examination requirements applicable to all student athletes. The superintendent, in collaboration with the activities director, will develop administrative regulations and procedures necessary to administer this policy.

Student activity events must be approved by the superintendent unless they involve unusual travel expense, in which case the board will take action. The events must not disrupt the education program or other school district operations.

A high school student who participates in school sponsored athletics may participate in a non-school sponsored sport during the same season with approval of the administration. Such outside participation will not conflict with the school sponsored athletic activity.

It is the responsibility of the superintendent to develop administrative regulations for each school activity. These regulations will include, but not be limited to, when physical examinations will be required, how and when parents will be informed about the risk of the activity, academic requirements, and proof of insurance on the student participating in certain activities. Students wanting to participate in school activities must meet the requirements set out by the school district for participation in the activity.

Note: Districts have the option to allow eighth-grade students to participate in interscholastic athletics. If a district chooses to do so, the district should ensure compliance with all applicable Iowa High School Athletic Association (IHSAA) and Iowa Girls High School Athletic Union (IGHSAU) rules. In developing implementing regulations, districts should consider factors such as student safety, roster capacity, facility capacity, coaching capacity, eligibility requirements, and other relevant considerations. Any participation requirements should be applied consistently and in a manner that provides equitable access for all students

Legal Reference: 20 U.S.C. §§ 1681-1683; 1685-1686.
34 C.F.R. Pt. 106.41.
Iowa Code §§ 216.9; 280.13-.14.
281 I.A.C. 12.6., 36.15(7).

Cross Reference: 507 Student Health and Well-Being