

# Academic Eligibility Policy

New Trier offers full and diverse programs in Student Activities, Interscholastic Athletics, and Performing Arts. Extracurricular activities offer students opportunities and experiences that both supplement and extend beyond the classroom. Involvement is voluntary but greatly encouraged at whatever level students should choose.

For students choosing to become involved in extracurricular activities at a leadership level, there are many rewards and responsibilities. Student officers, leaders, and team captains participate in leadership training, workshops, and seminars that prepare them for their responsibilities. All participating students must meet New Trier's academic eligibility criteria and codes of conduct.

## ACADEMIC ELIGIBILITY POLICY

Students are encouraged to participate in extracurricular activities to supplement their academic experience. Academics must be every student's first priority, however, and students must comply with basic expectations in order to participate in the school's activities, performances, and interscholastic competitions.

Students involved in interscholastic athletic competitions must meet all the requirements established by the Illinois High School Association.

Eligibility of special education students to participate in extracurricular and athletic activities may be determined based on criteria in the student's individualized education plan.

New Trier staff members strive to help every student participating in the extracurricular program to continue to do so. For that reason, the eligibility policy includes an "in-jeopardy" warning to inform students, parents, advisers, coaches, sponsors, and directors that ineligibility may occur. If a student should become academically ineligible, coaches, sponsors, and directors want to help the student address the problem and to resume participation as quickly as possible.

An explanation of the academic eligibility policy for extracurricular participation is printed annually in this Student Guidebook. Also, each student participating in extracurricular activities will receive an explanation of the policy from his/her coach, sponsor, or director.

## ACADEMIC POLICY REGARDING EXTRACURRICULAR PARTICIPATION

### DEFINITION OF EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES, ATHLETICS, AND OTHER SCHOOL-SPONSORED EVENTS

Extracurriculars are non-credit activities identified as all interscholastic activities or a school-sponsored activity, sport, club, performance group, or other organization as designated by the school.

### POPULATION COVERED

- All members of interscholastic athletic teams and other activities governed by IHSA rules;

- All officers and boards of major service clubs meeting during the instructional school day (Tri-Ship, Girls Club, Pep Club, S.I.L.C., Social Service, New Trier News, Trevia, Peer Helpers, Student Alliance, Peer Mediators, Senior Helpers, ELS Helpers);
- Leaders, boards, or members of other school-sponsored clubs and organizations, as designated by the sponsors;
- Student staff, performers, and crews of non-curricular Performing Arts productions; and
- Members participating in other school-sponsored or school-based events as designated by the administration.

### ACADEMIC CRITERIA

To be eligible to participate the student must meet current IHSA standards and must:

- Pass 25 credit hours of high school work per week. Generally, 25 credit hours is the equivalent of 2.5 full credits.
- Have passed and received credit toward graduation for 25 credit hours of high school work for the entire previous semester to be eligible at all during the ensuing semester.

Eligibility of special education students to participate in extracurricular and athletic activities may be determined based on criteria in the student's individualized education plans.

Any activity or school-sponsored event can establish standards that exceed the above academic criteria. Students shall be informed of the specific criteria prior to participation.

### PROCEDURES FOR ENFORCING POLICY

Classroom teachers will:

- Receive weekly printouts listing students in their classes who are bound by the academic eligibility policy;
- Mark students "not passing," based on cumulative grades, as of the end of the school day designated as the weekly deadline; and/or
- Mark students "in jeopardy," based on cumulative grades, as of the end of the school day designated as the weekly deadline.

### CONSEQUENCES FOR NON-COMPLIANCE

- A student not passing will be declared ineligible for a period of one calendar week (per IHSA rules).
- During the week of ineligibility, the student will be allowed to practice, but the student shall not be allowed to compete, perform publicly, or carry on the duties of his or her office or position.

### REINSTATEMENT INTO ACTIVITIES

- Students will be reinstated to full participation the week following verification of passing 2.5 credits.
- A student declared ineligible for an entire semester will be reinstated or allowed to participate upon passing 2.5 semester credits.
- Students may use summer school credits toward establishing eligibility in the fall semester.

### SPECTATOR CONDUCT FOR ATHLETIC, EXTRACURRICULAR, AND OTHER SCHOOL EVENTS

Any person, including an adult, who behaves in an inappropriate or unsportsmanlike manner during an athletic, extracurricular, or other school/District event may be ejected from the event the person is attending and/or denied admission to school/District events for up to one

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calendar year after a Board of Education hearing. Examples of inappropriate or unsportsmanlike conduct include, but are not limited to:

1. Using vulgar or obscene language or acting in a disrespectful manner;
2. Possessing or being under the influence of any alcoholic beverage or illegal substance;
3. Possessing a weapon;
4. Fighting or otherwise striking or threatening another person;
5. Failing to obey the instructions of a security officer or District employee; or
6. Engaging in any activity that is illegal or disruptive or otherwise violates District policy.

The Superintendent may seek to deny future admission to any person by delivering or mailing a notice, sent by certified mail with return receipt requested, at least 10 days before the Board hearing date, containing:

1. The date, time, and place of a Board hearing;
2. A description of the inappropriate or unsportsmanlike conduct;
3. The proposed time period that admission to school/District events will be denied;
4. Instructions on how to waive a hearing.

*(Reference: Board Policy 8-40)*

## **PLAYING IN NON-SCHOOL COMPETITION**

Students who wish to participate in a competition sanctioned by the National Governing Body, or its official Illinois affiliate for the sport, must request approval in writing from the IHSA Office prior to any such participation and provide documentation to the Director of Athletics. A list of pre-approved events and approval request forms are available on the IHSA website at [www.ihsa.org](http://www.ihsa.org).