Extra-Curricular Eligibility Standards

Statement of purpose

Extra-curricular participation should extend a student’s educational experience by continuing his or her development toward being a productive and useful citizen. However, students participating in extracurricular activities must always remember that education is the main goal of the Lindenhurst School District. Accordingly, Lindenhurst School District extends the privilege of extra-curricular activities to students who strive for successful academic achievement. Therefore, a student who has an average below 65 in two or more courses in any one quarter will be ineligible to participate in extracurricular activities until reinstated.

A. Notification
   a. Notification to Extra-curricular Supervisors: Within five day of report card distribution (as indicated on the school district calendar), the school district will provide a listing of all students who are ineligible to participate in extracurricular activities to all extracurricular supervisors. Supervisors are responsible for knowing the current eligibility status of their student participants.
   b. Notification to Students/Parents: Students/Parents will be advised of eligibility criteria via: orientation assemblies, extra-curricular orientations, school district website, report cards and public address announcements. Students are responsible for knowing their current eligibility status.

B. Procedure
   a. Academic Assistance: It is strongly advised that students avail themselves of extra help opportunities (including an academic support classes/programs that are offered.)
   b. Reinstatement: Every quarter begins the process anew. Students who have less that two failing class for the quarter may then participate fully in extra-curricular activities. Students who are also deemed ineligible will have an opportunity to appeal, and will remain eligible until an appeals verdict has been rendered (see appeals process).

C. General Regulations
   a. There will be no change of grades unless bookkeeping or an arithmetic error is discovered. This will reduce the possibility of coercion or pressure on a teacher to change grades in order to maintain eligibility.
   b. Fourth quarter grades will be used to determine the eligibility status of a student for the first quarter of the next school year. However, if a student fails a course in the fourth quarter but receives a final “passing” grade in that same course, the
quarterly grade will not be used to determine the eligibility status of that student for the first quarter of the next school year. Failing grades may be improved by attending the “failed” courses in summer school (if available) and obtaining a final grade of 65 or better for the course.

c. A course grade of WF (withdraw failing) will count towards a student’s eligibility status for extra-curricular activity participation for the remainder of the current school year unless it was determined that the student was incorrectly placed in that course (The teacher will provide a grade for that student for the quarter in which the course was dropped for the purpose of determining eligibility for extracurricular activities unless it was determined that the student was incorrectly placed in that course).

d. Field Trips (except those considered a part of a course requirement) will be covered under this policy as extra-curricular activities.

e. **Attendance:** Any student not meeting the school’s attendance requirements MAY NOT practice, participate, or represent the school in any activity until he or she is again in compliance. Therefore, Denials of Credit will be considered failing grades for the remainder of the school year and the first quarter of the following school year. All students are expected to be in compliance with the School District Attendance Policy each day. In the event of an unexcused absence, the student may not participate in an extracurricular program that day/evening/weekend.

f. **Lateness:**
   i. A student who is late to school must arrive by the end of Period 4 (and the lateness be excusable pursuant to the School District Attendance Policy) to be deemed eligible to participate in that day’s/night’s/weekend’s extra-curricular activity.
   ii. If lateness occurs after the start of Period 5 on the day prior to a weekend or scheduled vacation period, the student may not participate until he or she attends school pursuant to the School District Attendance Policy when school resumes.

g. **Suspension:** Any student under suspension (either after-school, in-school, alternative instruction site, or out of school suspension) MAY NOT practice, participate, or represent the school in any activity until he or she completes his or her suspension period.

h. The Extra-Curricular Policy will be explained in all yearly orientation assemblies at the beginning of each school year and by activity advisors at the first meeting of each activity and/or whenever a student begins his or her participation in that activity after the first meeting of the activity.
i. The Athletic Director will review the policy at parent meetings, held during the start of each athletic season. Coaches will also review the policy during the sign-up meetings.

j. It is STRONGLY ADVISED that students, independently, seek extra help in the subject areas in which they are failing.

D. Right to Appeal

a. All students who have been declared ineligible to participate in extracurricular activities shall have the right to appeal to the Eligibility Appeals Committee. The Eligibility Appeals Committee shall consist of a guidance counselor, teacher, coach/advisor and administrator. The following procedure must be followed:

i. The student must submit a written request for the appeal to the school principal or his/her designee within five school days of notification that he or she is ineligible. The appeal request must be signed by a parent or guardian.

ii. A conference between all parties must be scheduled within three school days of the receipt of the written request to appeal. The student shall have a right to be represented at that conference by a parent or guardian and to present evidence. The administration will direct any school district employee whose testimony is needed at that hearing to appear at that hearing, with whatever records are necessary, and give testimony.

iii. The Principal or his/her designee shall render a written decision of eligibility the next school day before the start of the activity affected, two or more copies of which will be handed to the student by the Principal or his/her designee on that day or the next day in which the student is present in school. The student will sign a dated copy of the decision, which will be kept, in chronological order in a file specifically designated for that purpose and maintained by the Principal or his/her designee in his/her office. The student will give one his or her copies to the supervisor of the activity affected.

iv. The student will remain eligible to participate in extracurricular activities until a final verdict is rendered during the appeals process.