

Pittsfield School District

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

Participating in extra-curricular and co-curricular activities may demand a large portion of a student's out-of-school time. It is necessary for students to demonstrate that they can afford to devote the time necessary for participation in these activities.

Extra-Curricular Participation Guidelines:

1. Eligibility Requirements. To be eligible to participate in any extra-curricular activity, the student must be passing a minimum of four credit-bearing courses (not including driver education, ELO's, learning studios, or advisory) during the previous PMHS reporting period. An "incomplete" does not qualify as a passing grade.

For on-line courses to be applied to eligibility, they must meet the following criteria:

- A. Student must be "passing" the course;
- B. For a semester (.5 credit) course, student must be:
 - 40% course completed by mid-semester (first or third progress report);
 - 100% course completed by end-of-semester.
- C. For full-year (1 credit) course, the student must be:
 - 20% course completed by first progress report;
 - 40% course completed by second progress report;
 - 60% course completed by third progress report;
 - 100% course completed by fourth progress report.

"Passing" is defined by the granting of credit by the responsible institution. The progress report "snapshot" is taken at 8:00 a.m. on the "snapshot date" determined by the school administration.

2. Ineligibility. A student who is considered ineligible may not participate or attend any activity, meeting, practice, or team event until the subsequent reporting period or the beginning of the subsequent season.
3. Summertime Competency Recovery. Students must meet eligibility requirements at least one week prior to the fall season start date to be considered eligible.

Co-Curricular Participation Guidelines:

1. Students are expected to be in good academic standing to be eligible for participation. Club advisors are expected to review each student's academic performance to ensure that good standing is maintained. Due to the missed instructional time required for participation in the ski club, members must meet the extra-curricular requirement by the first scheduled ski activity.

Adopted: August 4, 1997
Reviewed: March 16, 2006
Amended: April 6, 2006
Amended: March 3, 2016
Reviewed: September 20, 2018
Reviewed: December 1, 2022

Student Activities & Organizations

It is the policy of the Board to allow opportunities for all students residing in the District to participate in co/extra-curricular activities and programs designed to meet their needs and interests. Co/extra-curricular activities include, but are not necessarily limited to field trips, excursions, athletics (including intramurals), band, chorus, clubs, organizations, school dances, and others.

Such activities and programs are intended to supplement and enrich regular academic instruction, provide opportunities for social development, encourage participation in clubs, athletics, performing groups, or encourage service to the school and community.

Any student organization or school/District sanctioned team, club, or activity must be recommended by the building Principal and approved by the Board.

A. Eligibility.

To participate in co-curricular and extra-curricular activities, all students must meet eligibility requirements, and understand that such participation is a privilege, not a right. The School District has established eligibility standards and procedures for acceptable academic performance, good citizenship/sportsmanship, parental permission, fees, and physical exams/health requirements. The building Principal, or his/her designee(s), will verify that all students meet eligibility standards and procedures prior to the students' participation in the activity.

In addition, participation in interscholastic sports or other school activities affiliated with outside organizations (e.g., the New Hampshire Interscholastic Athletic Association, or the New Hampshire Music Educators Association, etc.) is subject to the rules and eligibility requirements of those organizations. Additional Board policies, administrative regulations, or activity rules may apply to specific programs, clubs, and activities. See, e.g., Board policy, regarding interscholastic athletics.

In the event that a program has reached capacity, determinations must be made in the same manner as described in Section A of Board policy JJJ.

B. Participation by Home Education and Other Non-Enrolled District Students.

Participation in student activities and organizations must have the same eligibility and participation requirements for both district students and for home educated, charter school, or non-enrolled district school resident students ("non-enrolled district students"). See Board policy JJJ for information on participation by such students.

C. Appeals.

Any student/parent who believes that the district's policies/regulations or the State's laws/regulations have not been appropriately or fairly interpreted regarding eligibility or participation in a school a course or program may appeal in the same manner as provided in Section E of Board policy JJJ.

D. Administrative Regulations or Procedures.

The Superintendent or designee may adopt such administrative regulations or procedures as s/he deems appropriate in order to implement this policy. Such regulations or procedures must also comply with Board policy JJJ.

District Policy History:

First reading: 10-2-2025

Second reading/adopted:

District revision history:

Legal References Disclaimer: These references are not intended to be considered part of this policy, nor should they be taken as a comprehensive statement of the legal basis for the Board to enact this policy, nor as a complete recitation of related legal authority. Instead, they are provided as additional resources for those interested in the subject matter of the policy.

NH Statutes	Description
RSA 193-A:6	<u>(Home Education), Records; Evaluation</u>
RSA 193:1-c	<u>Access to Public School Programs by Nonpublic or Home Educated Pupils</u>
NH Dept of Ed Regulation	Description
N.H. Code Admin. Rules Ed 306.04(b)(21)(f)	<u>World Languages, K-8</u>
N.H. Code Admin. Rules Ed 306.21(c)(2)(k)	<u>World Languages, Middle School (applies after July 1, 2017)</u>
N.H. Code Admin. Rules Ed 306.22(c)(4)	<u>High School Curriculum, Credits, and Cocurricular Programs</u>
N.H. Code Admin. Rules Ed 306.22(d)	<u>Reasonable Accommodations for Students with Disabilities</u>

Student Activities & Organizations - Eligibility Standard

Participation in school-sponsored activities, clubs, teams and organizations shall be in accordance with Board policies JJA and JJJ. In addition to requirements of those policies, the following minimum eligibility standards will govern participation, whether by students enrolled in the district's schools, or by home educated, charter or private school students.

A. Elementary and Middle School Students. Elementary and middle school students shall be eligible to participate in school-sponsored organizations and activities based upon age-appropriate criteria approved by the principal. Students/parents will be provided copies of such criteria prior to student participation. Any league requirements shall also apply.

B. High School. High school students shall be eligible for participation in school-sponsored organizations and activities under the following guidelines:

1. Academic.

1. Eligibility for participation is based upon review of grades from the previous academic quarter.
2. Students failing in more than 4 course(s) in a full course load shall be ineligible for participation the following academic quarter. Students taking less than a full class load must pass all courses to maintain eligibility. A failing grade is defined as lower than a numerical grade of 75%.
3. Students may re-establish eligibility for fall semester organizations/activities through successful completion of an approved summer school program in the area previously failed.
4. Some specific organizations (e.g. National Honor Society) may impose additional academic requirements.

2. Conduct

1. Conduct expectations for participation in school organizations and activities are specified in the behavioral and disciplinary policies established by the Board policies.
2. Should serious or chronic behavioral infractions occur, students participating in school-sponsored organizations/activities will be subject to a probationary hearing. This hearing will be conducted by the relevant advisor/coach and attended by an administrator, the student and parent(s). Eligibility for further participation will be determined following the hearing.

3. Attendance.

1. Students participating in school-sponsored activities/organizations shall comply with all attendance requirements mandated by State law and regulation as well as Board policies, and those of any applicable outside organization.
2. Should serious or chronic attendance infractions occur, students participating in school-sponsored organizations/activities will be subject to a probationary hearing. This hearing will be conducted by the relevant advisor/coach and attended by an administrator, the student and parent(s). An appeals shall be conducted in accordance with board policy JJA, and, if applicable, JICD.

4. Athletics.

In addition to the minimum eligibility requirements above, those students participating in school-sponsored athletics must comply with rules and standards established by the New Hampshire Interscholastic Athletic Association (NHIAA), Board policies, the school's athletic code, and the school district's policies regarding physical examinations and transportation.

District Policy History:

First reading: _____

Second reading/adopted: _____

District Policy Revision History:

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NH Statutes

RSA 193-A:6

Description

[\(Home Education\), Records; Evaluation](#)

RSA 193:1-c

[Access to Public School Programs by Nonpublic or Home Educated Pupils](#)

NH Dept of Ed Regulation

N.H. Code Admin. Rules Ed 306.04(b)(21)(f)

Description

[World Languages, K-8](#)

N.H. Code Admin. Rules Ed 306.21(c)(2)(k)

[World Languages, Middle School \(applies after July 1, 2017\)](#)

N.H. Code Admin. Rules Ed 306.22(c)(4)

[High School Curriculum, Credits, and Cocurricular Programs](#)

N.H. Code Admin. Rules Ed 306.22(d)

[Reasonable Accommodations for Students with Disabilities](#)

School Sponsored Athletic Programs

The School Board recognizes the value of athletic participation to the development of well-rounded students. Significant evidence exists to show that students who participate in extracurricular activities often perform better academically than those who do not. The School Board promotes athletic participation in the belief that successful athletic programs promote individual and team potential by helping to develop high standards of competence, character, civility and citizenship for student-athletes. The School Board recognizes that in addition to promoting the physical and social well-being of participating students, athletic programs offered can be a potent factor in both establishing a positive school climate and nurturing strong community-school bonds.

It is the Board's policy, therefore, to provide opportunities for interscholastic athletic competition in a variety of sports as budgetary considerations allow. Such opportunities should encourage participation by as many students as reasonably possible and should be carried on with the best interests of the participants as the first consideration.

All school/district sponsored athletic programs shall require the approval of the School Board, and shall be administered by the Principal and Athletic Director subject to the supervision of the Superintendent. Different programs that the Board may from time-to-time approve, can include fully sponsored school teams, club teams, and/or intramural teams. Competitions offered as part of otherwise approved instructional programs do not require specific Board approval.

Qualified personnel should be provided for coaching and supervising all athletic programs.

Participation in interscholastic athletics is subject to the rules adopted by the New Hampshire Interscholastic Athletic Association, other similar sponsoring organizations or leagues, other Board policies (e.g., JJA, JJIC, JJJ, etc.), and any rules adopted by the Superintendent, the Athletic Director, the Principal, or a team coach.

District Policy History:

First reading: 10-2-2025

Second reading/adopted:

District revision history:

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NH Statutes	Description
RSA 193:41	School Athletics

Eligibility for Interscholastic Athletics – Grade 5-12

Students who desire to participate on interscholastic athletic teams do so on a volunteer basis with the understanding that it is a privilege and not a right to be a member of a school team. Students shall be allowed to participate in school-sponsored interscholastic sports on the basis of their physical condition, skill and desire, subject to appropriate, non-discriminatory selection procedures, such as tryouts, fitness tests, etc.

I. Eligibility: Before participating on any interscholastic athletic team (including any school-sponsored club team) students must meet and satisfy the following eligibility requirements.

A. General:

1. All standards of eligibility under rules or guidelines of the New Hampshire Interscholastic Athletic Association (NHIAA) or other such governing organization.
2. All standards of eligibility for co- or extracurricular activities as set forth in:
 - i. any rules that may be school, athletic program or team specific;
 - ii. applicable administrative regulations or procedures (e.g., JJA-R(1));
 - iii. applicable Board policies (e.g., JJA).

B. Registration Documentation:

1. Registration form with emergency contact and any special medical information,
2. Parental consent form,
3. Participation fee (parents may request a fee waiver), and
4. Student's original birth certificate:

For purposes of this policy, an "original birth certificate" is one issued at or near the time of the student's birth. If a copy is indicated as "modified", it must clearly show that any modification to sex related only to correction of a scrivener or clerical error.

If the submitted birth certificate does not appear to be the original birth certificate, or it does not indicate the student's sex at birth, then the student/parent/guardian must provide other evidence indicating the student's sex at birth. Such evidence may include such things as: hospital records, photo or video materials, newspaper, social or publications produced near the time of birth, notarized statements from the parent or guardian regarding the student's biological sex at birth. The student or the student's parent or guardian must pay any costs associated with providing such alternative evidence.

1. Physical:

1. A completed "Physical Pre-participation Evaluation" signed by a physician, nurse practitioner or physician's assistant in collaboration with a physician. The district may require additional information from a healthcare provider before allowing a student to participate in athletics if the district is aware of an injury or illness that could be exacerbated by participation.

2. Baseline Test - High School Students: All high school students must take an ImPACT Neuropsychological test prior to participation (including tryouts) in any school sponsored athletic teams, and any other NHIAA sport or sanctioned activity. The test must also be administered two years after the first. Generally, the tests will occur in the 9th and 11th grades, but may be different for transfer students, or students who first participate in the 10th grade.
2. **Academic:** In addition to the academic requirements set forth the requirements of the NHIAA, Board policy JJA and administrative procedure JJA-R, students must meet the following academic requirements below to participate in interscholastic athletics. Eligibility for each marking period is determined by grades received in the previous marking period. Semester and/or yearly grades have no effect on eligibility.
 1. Eligibility Requirements. To be eligible to participate in any extra-curricular activity, the student must be passing a minimum of four credit-bearing courses (not including driver education, ELO's, learning studios, or advisory) during the previous PMHS reporting period. An "incomplete" does not qualify as a passing grade.
 - A. Student must be "passing" the course;
 - B. For a semester (.5 credit) course, student must be:
 - 40% course completed by mid-semester (first or third progress report);
 - 100% course completed by end-of-semester.
 - C. For full-year (1 credit) course, the student must be:
 - 20% course completed by first progress report;
 - 40% course completed by second progress report;
 - 60% course completed by third progress report;
 - 100% course completed by fourth progress report.

"Passing" is defined by the granting of credit by the responsible institution. The progress report "snapshot" is taken at 8:00 a.m. on the "snapshot date" determined by the school administration.

 2. Ineligibility. A student who is considered ineligible may not participate or attend any activity, meeting, practice, or team event until the subsequent reporting period or the beginning of the subsequent season.
 3. Summertime Competency Recovery. Students must meet eligibility requirements at least one week prior to the fall season start date to be considered eligible.
 4. Transfer students' academic eligibility for participation in an athletic activity will be determined initially by their incoming GPA. These eligibility criteria will apply through and include the student's first marking period of attendance in the school district. Transfer students whose incoming GPA does not meet the academic requirements will be denied academic eligibility during their first marking period in the school district, after which, the academic requirements above shall apply.
 5. A special education student who is working toward a special diploma/certificate must make standard progress in those courses taken as determined by the student's Individualized Educational Program (IEP). A special education student who is working toward a standard diploma must meet the same academic standards for participation in athletic activities.

6. The Superintendent or his/her designee may develop additional procedures intended to monitor academic performance of student-athletes, with the object of early intervention.

III. Severability: If any provision of this policy is held to be invalid for any reason, such action shall not invalidate the remainder of this policy. If any provision of this policy conflicts with any provisions in any other Board policies, the provisions of this policy shall prevail, except to the extent such provisions contravene any applicable state or federal law.

IV. Records: The Superintendent shall establish regulations and procedures to ensure:

- A. records supporting a student's eligibility consistent with this policy are collected and maintained (in original or summary form);
- B. necessary data related to ineligible students is collected and reported as required by law;
- C. cultural traditions of students are considered when establishing or enforcing rules related to participation in extracurricular activities; and
- D. other requirements of this policy are met.

V. Co-Curricular Participation Guidelines:

Students are expected to be in good academic standing to be eligible for participation. Club advisors are expected to review each student's academic performance to ensure that good standing is maintained. Due to the missed instructional time required for participation in the ski club, members must meet the extra-curricular requirement by the first scheduled ski activity.

District Policy History:

First reading: 10-2-2025

Second reading/adopted:

District revision history:

Policy to replace IGDJ

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NH Statutes	Description
RSA 193:41	School Athletics

Access to Public School Programs by Nonpublic, Charter School and Home Educated Pupils

All pupils residing in the District, whether they are home educated, or are attending public chartered school or nonpublic schools (collectively, “non-enrolled district students”), shall have access to curricular courses and co/extra-curricular programs offered by the District in accordance with RSA 193:1-c.

A. Equal Access to District Courses and Programs.

Non-enrolled district students will have the same access as do enrolled students to the District’s courses and programs. Non-enrolled district students shall not be subject to any policies, procedures or standards with respect to participation in the District’s courses or programs that are more restrictive than those governing the District’s enrolled students. Non-enrolled district students, however, must meet the same eligibility criteria as the District’s students as described in paragraph B below.

The district allows non-enrolled district students to participate on an equal basis in courses and programs offered by the district provided they meet the eligibility requirements for participation (e.g., deadlines for registration, academic progress/performance, parental permission, third party (e.g., NHIAA) requirements, physical exams/health requirements, etc).

In the event that a course or program has reached capacity, selection between enrolled students and non-enrolled district students must be made using the same criteria, such as registration deadlines, registration dates, audition/tryout, seniority by grade, etc. If, after applying such criteria the course/program remains overenrolled, the determination should be made randomly.

If a student or their parent/guardian believes that they have not been given equal opportunity for participation in district programs, then they may appeal as outlined in Board policy JJA-R.

B. Participation in Curricular Courses.

In order to participate in the District’s curricular courses, non-enrolled district students must meet the eligibility criteria that applies to students enrolled in the school district. The building Principal will provide this eligibility criteria to parents or guardians of non-enrolled district students upon request.

Parents/guardians shall submit requests for participation in District courses in writing to the building Principal consistent with Board procedures JJJ-R. The building Principal will verify that the eligibility standards are the same as those that apply to students enrolled in the school district.

The Principal will determine if a non-enrolled district student has satisfied eligibility criteria and prerequisites in the same manner as s/he would:

1. for determining whether a course satisfies requirements for awarding credits; and
2. for assigning to classes or grade levels and for students transferring from other schools.

Policy JJJ: Access to Public School Programs by Nonpublic, Charter School and Home Educated Pupils

Required

In making the determination, the Principal should consider home education evaluation materials (see RSA 193-A:6, III), course descriptions, syllabi, and/or any other relevant information offered by the parent/guardian of the student.

Requests for the related services including, but not limited to, physical therapy, occupational therapy, speech therapy, counseling, psychological, guidance, and/or special education services shall be referred to the Student Services Administrator. If a dispute arises between the parent/guardian and the District as to the pupil's right to these services, the Student Services Administrator shall inform the Superintendent, who shall consult the District's attorney for a legal opinion.

C. Use of School Texts and Library Materials.

Non-enrolled district students will be permitted to use the school library, borrow school texts and borrow library materials under the same conditions and rules as pupils enrolled in the District.

D. Participation in Activities and Co/extra-curricular Programs.

Requests by non-enrolled district students for participation in District co-curricular/extra-curricular activities or programs ("activities") shall be made in writing by the parent/guardian to the building Principal. The building Principal shall ensure that there is equal treatment and opportunity of non-enrolled district students relative to their participation in District activities.

In order to participate in District activities, non-enrolled district students must:

1. Meet the eligibility criteria for participation in the activity that apply to students enrolled in the school district, with the exception of school attendance;
2. Meet any tryout criteria or their equivalent for participation in the activity that apply to students enrolled in the school district; and
3. Comply with all policies, rules and regulations or their equivalent of the governing organization of the activity.

Non-enrolled district students participating in district co-curricular and extra-curricular activities are subject to the same fees charged enrolled students for the activity.

E. Appeals.

Any student/parent/guardian who believes that the district's policies/regulations or the State's laws/regulations pertaining to a non-enrolled district student's access to a course or program have not been appropriately or fairly interpreted may appeal as follows:

If the original decision being appealed was made by the Principal, then the "Principal" as used in steps 1-4 shall refer to the "Superintendent", and the Superintendent's decision shall be final. Step 5 shall not apply.

1. Submit a letter to the building Principal stating the nature of the concern and requesting a hearing.
2. Within five (5) school days the Principal will convene a meeting with him/herself, the student and/or parents, the coach/advisor, and a teacher(s).

Policy JJJ: Access to Public School Programs by Nonpublic, Charter School and Home Educated Pupils

Required

3. The student/parent will be given an opportunity to explain why they believe the student should be eligible for participation. Additionally, the student/parent may present information, documents or other material in support of their position. The Principal shall prepare minutes of the meeting.
4. The Principal will consider all information available and will make a final decision within three (3) school days following the meeting. The Principal will notify and inform the student/parents of his/her decision in writing via email. When time is of the essence, the Principal should first convey the basic conclusion as soon as practicable via telephone or email.
5. The student/parent/guardian may within 3 days of the Principal's email of the decision submit a written request for further review by the Superintendent. The written request should describe why the Principal's decision should not be upheld. The Superintendent may decide without further information to uphold the Principal's decision, or may determine a further meeting is necessary. In either event, the Superintendent's decision will be final. If the parent/guardians do not request a review by the Superintendent, then the Principal's decision will be final as of the fourth day after the Principal's written decision was transmitted to the parents/guardians.

F. Administrative Regulations or Procedures.

The Superintendent or designee may adopt such administrative regulations or procedures as s/he deems appropriate in order to implement this policy.

District Policy History:

First reading: October 2, 2025

Second reading/adopted: June 17, 1996

District revision history:

Legal References Disclaimer: *These references are not intended to be considered part of this policy, nor should they be taken as a comprehensive statement of the legal basis for the Board to enact this policy, nor as a complete recitation of related legal authority. Instead, they are provided as additional resources for those interested in the subject matter of the policy.*

NH Statutes

RSA 193-A:6

RSA 193:1-c

Description

[\(Home Education\), Records; Evaluation](#)

[Access to Public School Programs by Nonpublic or Home Educated Pupils](#)

***Access to Public School Programs by Nonpublic, Charter School and Home Educated Pupils -
Administrative Regulations***

A. Participation in District Programs. Participation in District curricular courses or co/extra-curricular programming and activities by home educated, public chartered school, or nonpublic school pupils ("non-district students") is governed by Board policy JJJ.

B. Participation in Curricular Courses. The following additional criteria and conditions are established:

1. Transportation to and from school is only provided when the transportation falls within the ordinary school bus schedule or is otherwise required under state law. The Principal may make an exception to this condition based on a review of all pertinent circumstances.
2. All pupils participating in curricular courses are expected to maintain punctual attendance and complete all required coursework, homework, exams, etc., as established by the teacher or instructor for all students.
3. If the pupil is taking the course for credit or grade, such credit or grade will be granted only after the completion of the class.
4. Requests for participation that are received after class schedules have been made will be granted only if there is space available.

C. Participation in Co/Extra-Curricular Activities. Requests by non-district students for participation in co/extra-curricular activities shall be made in writing by the parent/guardian to the building. Co/extra-curricular activities include, but are not necessarily limited to field trips, excursions, athletics (including intramurals), band, chorus, clubs, organizations, school dances, and others. See Board policies JJA, JJJ and JJIB regarding school activities, organizations, and athletics.

The following criteria and conditions are hereby established:

The parent/guardian must provide prior written permission for participation.

1. The participating pupil agrees to abide by all Board policies relative to student code of conduct and eligibility.
2. Participation in the activity is developmentally appropriate for the pupil.
3. The building Principal, advisor, coach may ask the parent/guardian to chaperone an event if the same applies to parent/guardians of enrolled students.
4. Coaches, teachers and group/club supervisors may establish their own rules relative to participation, attendance, and expectations, provided such rules are not contrary to these regulations corresponding policy JJJ. Participating non-district students are expected to abide by those rules as well.
5. Home educated or other non-district school students may be required to provide proof of a recent physical examination from their physician for participation in athletic activities, consistent with other Board policies relative to athletic participation.

District Policy History:

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