

SOUTH COUNTRY CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

East Patchogue, New York 11772

CO-CURRICULAR & EXTRA-CURRICULAR ELIGIBILITY POLICY

This policy establishes the standards by which students shall conduct themselves if they choose to take advantage of the privileges afforded them by participating in activities defined in this policy. Students participating in activities shall commit themselves to meet the standards of this policy and of the District Code of Conduct at all times and in all places during a calendar year (365 days a year).

I. STATEMENT OF PHILOSOPHY

It is a privilege and an honor to participate in the full range of student activities provided by the South Country Central School District. These activities and participation in them contribute to each student's education by:

- A. promoting good citizenship and moral character
- B. developing discipline and skills necessary to personal success and well being
- C. promoting the image and identity of the school and community

Students who choose to participate in activities will conduct themselves appropriately at all times both on school grounds and away from the school. The responsibility of good conduct is an extension of the responsibility to represent the school and community in an appropriate manner.

II. STUDENT AND PARENT AGREEMENT

Before participation in any activity is permitted, all students who wish to participate in activities and their parent(s) shall receive a copy of this policy and shall sign an agreement indicating that they will abide by this policy.

III. APPLICABLE ACTIVITY PROGRAMS

This policy applies to all co-curricular / extra-curricular activities including, but not limited to:

- A. All interscholastic and intramural athletic activities
- B. All music, drama (public performances), cheerleading, pep band, dance team, and similar activities
- C. Student Council and other elected offices
- D. All other school clubs and activities that meet on a regular basis and/or for a specified purpose
- E. Field Trips, Class Trips, overnight trips, school dances, Prom, Cotillion, Graduation ceremony, etc.

IV. APPLICATION OF ELIGIBILITY

Appropriate student behavior is required by, and has an impact on, all activities in which a student participates. If a student is participating in multiple activities at the same time when a violation occurs, the student shall lose the privilege to participate in all activities under this policy.

V. CONDUCT REQUIREMENTS

Students shall:

- A. Abide by this policy at all times and in all places.
- B. Abide by any additional specific rules and regulations that the coach/advisor of the activity has established (such as training hours, attendance at practice, etc.). Students will be required to sign a copy of a document acknowledging agreement to abide by coach or advisor rules prior to participation.

General Standard:

Good conduct consists of behavior which incorporates respect for and sensitivity to other persons, including a respect for their rights,

property and personal dignity. Violations of this general standard and violations of the District Code of Conduct, the Athletic Code of Conduct, and/or the policies of NYSPHSAA Section 11 are subject to any applicable penalties set forth therein.

VI. VIOLATIONS AND PENALTIES

The following terms and definitions will be used regarding the interpretation of this Policy:

- Probation: The student will be permitted to participate in the total activity but will be subject to review by the Eligibility Committee.
- Ineligible: The student will be excluded from all contests, performances, and competitions for a period of time, but is entitled to attend and participate in practices and meetings.
- Disqualified: The student will be disqualified from all co- and extra-curricular activities during the period imposed (as defined in III. Applicable Activities Program)
- Eligibility Committee: Committee of school faculty and the principal's designee assigned to review attendance, academics and discipline, with the task of investigating all reported violations of the Eligibility Policy for validity and rendering decisions based on their findings.
- Season : The period of time for which the activity takes place. For an interscholastic sport, that period shall be from the first day of practice until the final official competition of the sport. For non-sports activities, that period shall be from the first meeting until the final or culminating activity is completed. This may mean that some activities have a season extending through the entire school year.

Violations of this policy shall fall into three (3) areas:

A. School and Class Attendance:

Violations of the school and class attendance policy shall be treated as a matter of student discipline in accordance with the District Code of Conduct and therefore be subject to any applicable penalties set forth therein.

All students who are scheduled to participate in an activity on any day that school is in session must attend school for 5 periods on the day of the activity and may not sign out of school prior to the end of the school day unless permission to participate has been granted by the school principal. In the event of extenuating circumstances, an explanation in writing accompanied by supporting documentation, if available, shall be required in order for the principal to grant such permission.

The decision of the principal regarding extenuating circumstances shall final and not subject to appeal.

B. Discipline:

1. Students suspended for a violation of the Code of Conduct for one (1) or two (2) days, either in school or out of school, shall not be permitted to participate in any co-curricular or extracurricular activity for the duration of the suspension.
2. A student suspended for a violation of the Code of Conduct and who has accumulated up to three (3) or four (4) days shall be disqualified to participate in any co-curricular or extracurricular activity for the duration of the suspension, and for an additional period of one (1) week after the expiration of the suspension.
3. A student suspended out of school for a violation of the Code of Conduct and who has accumulated up to five (5) days shall be disqualified to participate in any co-curricular or extracurricular activity for the duration of the suspension, and for a period of two (2) weeks after the expiration of the suspension
4. A student suspended out of school for a violation of the Code of Conduct for more than a total of five (5) days for separate incidents occurring during the school year shall not participate in any co-curricular or extracurricular activity for the duration of the suspension, and for an additional one (1) week for each day of suspension.

5. A student suspended out of school for violation of the Code of Conduct for five (5) days for any single offense, found guilty at a Superintendent's Hearing, and given an additional period of suspension, shall be disqualified from any co-curricular or extracurricular activity for the duration of the suspension, and for an additional three (3) weeks after the expiration of the suspension.

Once the determination is made that a student has violated this policy as a result of disciplinary action in violation of the Code of Conduct, a school administrator shall make a determination of the appropriate penalty under this policy. In instances of an appeal, determination on a student's eligibility status shall be determined by the Eligibility Committee. The student and his/her parent(s) shall be verbally informed within twenty-four (24) hours, followed by written notice, of this decision (the nature of the violation and the determination of the penalty) by mailing the same to the student's residence within two school days of the determination. In lieu of mailing, written notice may also be personally given to the parent/guardian or student.

C. Academic Standing

1. Levels of Eligibility:

- a. Probation: Students with two (2) failures on a progress report or report card will be placed on a five (5) week probationary period.
- b. Ineligible: Students with three (3) failures (no more than two major subjects) are ineligible until the following quarter progress report and / or report card is issued and said student is passing two of the courses.
- c. Disqualified: Any student who fails three (3) or more major subjects on a progress report or report card is deemed disqualified for participation.
- d. Students who fail Physical Education are disqualified from participation in interscholastic athletics until a passing grade is achieved on the next progress report and / or report card.

2. Determination of Eligibility:

- a. Academic eligibility for fall sports season shall be determined by the Report Card final course grade issued the previous June, the progress report issued in the first quarter and/or the first quarter report card issued in November.
 - Students earning passing marks during the summer for the failed course(s) will not be subject to the probationary period in the fall.
- b. Academic eligibility for the winter sports season shall be determined by the first quarter progress report, the first quarter report card issued in November, the second quarter progress report issued in December, and/or the second quarter report card issued in February.
- c. Academic eligibility for the spring sports season shall be determined by the second quarter report card issued in February, the third quarter progress report issued in March, the third quarter report card issued in April, and/or the fourth quarter progress report issued in May.
- d. The following criteria must be met for high school eligibility:
 - Sophomores: must have earned a minimum of 5 credits during freshman year, including 1/2 credit of physical education per year.
 - Juniors: must have earned a minimum of 10 credits by the end of their sophomore year, including 1/2 credit of physical education per year.
 - Seniors: must have earned 15 credits by the end of junior year and must be registered for the minimum number of credits required for graduation, including 1/2 credit of physical education per year.

3. Students failing two (2) subjects as noted on a progress report or a report card will be placed on academic probation.
 - a. Once the determination is made that a student has violated this policy based on academic standing, a student placed on academic probation will be subject to a five (5) week probationary period during which the student will remain eligible to participate in co- and extra-curricular activities. An Academic Support Plan shall be developed through the Guidance Department and the building student support team (SST).

Notification will be sent home to parents of students placed on academic probation within five (5) school days of the issuance of the distribution of either the applicable progress report or report card.

b. An Academic Support Plan shall consist of:

- Regular attendance and participation in Extra help sessions/Study Center
- Regular attendance and participation in after school tutoring/mentoring
- Guidance support
- Weekly Eligibility Reports (WERs) for each subject that include:
 - Weekly class attendance
 - Weekly academic average
 - Quarterly academic average to date
 - Homework assignments given/completed
 - Teacher comments on weekly performance
 - Extra help/mentoring/tutoring attendance and participation

c. Weekly Eligibility Reports (WERs) shall be reviewed by the appropriate coach and/or club-activity advisor.

4. Following the five (5) week probationary period, if a student continues to fail any two (2) subjects as indicated on the quarterly progress report, the quarterly report card, or the Weekly Eligibility Reports, he/she will become ineligible as defined in VI. Violations and Penalties. Notification will be sent home to parents of students found to be ineligible within five (5) school days of the determination by the Eligibility Committee.
5. Following the five (5) week ineligibility period, if a student continues to fail any two (2) subjects as indicated on the quarterly progress report, the quarterly report card, or the Weekly Eligibility Reports, he/she will be disqualified from all activities. Notification will be sent home to parents of students found to be disqualified within five (5) school days of the determination by the Eligibility Committee.

Disqualification shall continue so long as a student is failing two (2) or more subjects as indicated on the quarterly progress report, the quarterly report card, or the Weekly Eligibility Reports.

VII. RIGHT TO DUE PROCESS AND APPEAL

The decision of the Eligibility Committee regarding a violation of this policy other than a coach's supplementary rules may be appealed to the principal except as otherwise set forth herein. The appeal to the principal shall be in writing and delivered to the principal or the principal's secretary within three (3) school days of receipt of the Eligibility Committee's written decision.

Grounds for appeal may include, but not be limited to:

- an error in the computation of the student's grade(s)
- additional academic information not available to the Eligibility Committee when it rendered its decision
- additional discipline information not available to the administration and/or Eligibility Committee when a decision was initially rendered
- failure by the district to comply with the various time limits established by the policy
- failure by the district to comply with the Academic Support Plan provisions

The following shall not represent sufficient grounds for appeal:

- disagreement with the policy on philosophical grounds

The written appeal to the principal shall specify the ground(s) for the appeal and must include all supporting information, facts, and documentation. The parents and student shall have the opportunity to meet with the principal prior to a decision on the appeal being made. However, the time limit for the principal's written decision shall not be affected by the meeting, or lack thereof, with the parents and student.

The principal shall provide a written decision to the parents and student postmarked within three (3) school days of receipt of the original written appeal.

The student shall remain ineligible until a determination is rendered by the principal.