

## Student Personnel

### Series 500

Policy Title: Activity Eligibility/Good Conduct Policy

Code No. 504.9A

Student participation in activities is a privilege, since no student is required to participate in such activities. However, these activities are within the jurisdiction of the Board of Directors of the Greene County Community School District and certain rules and policies are necessary for the continued efficient operation of the program. The following are major, but by no means the only, considerations in the establishment of these rules:

1. Pride, morale, and positive attitudes are important to the success of any activity. Students who violate established rules with impunity have a detrimental effect on other participants.
2. Public confidence is necessary for long-range continuation of activity programs in the public schools. Students whose actions are not consistent with the goals to be achieved through activity programs erode the public's support of the programs and jeopardize their continuation.
3. The use of controlled substances, not pursuant to a physician's prescription or direction, and the use of alcohol, tobacco, or nicotine are detrimental to the physical and psychological development of adolescents and reduce a participant's ability to perform at his/her fullest capacity.

#### I. Definitions:

- A. Participants: Any student in good standing in the Greene County Community School District who is participating in an extracurricular activity.
- B. Extracurricular Activity: Any program offered as part of, or in addition to, regular academic classes in the Greene County Community School District which includes without limitation: vocal and instrumental music, drama, speech, Quill, yearbook, FFA, student government, National Honor Society, athletics, cheerleading, academic competitions, and all school-sanctioned clubs.

#### II. Academic Eligibility:

High School participants must meet all academic eligibility requirements set forth by the State of Iowa and the athletic and activity associations.

#### III. Middle School/High School Eligibility

Upon completion of the 8th grade school year (i.e. the final day school is in session), all middle school violations of the good conduct code are dismissed and the student begins his/her high school career as though no violations existed. The only exception is for an 8th grade student who was still serving a penalty. Completion of that penalty must take place before becoming eligible for high school competition.

#### IV. Violations:

A participant shall be subject to disciplinary proceedings if s/he violates or admits to violating any of the following provisions:

- A. Possession, use, or purchase of alcoholic beverages, including beer and wine (having the odor of alcohol on one's breath is evidence of use).
- B. Possession, use, or purchase of tobacco and/or nicotine products, regardless of student's age.
- C. Possession, use, purchase, or attempted sale/purchase of illegal drugs or look alike drugs or the unauthorized possession, use, purchase, or attempted sale/purchase of otherwise lawful drugs. Possession, use, purchase, or attempted sale/purchases of look alike drugs.
- D. Engaging in any act that would be grounds for arrest or citation in the criminal or juvenile court system (excluding minor offenses such as traffic or hunting/fishing, violations), regardless of whether the student was cited, arrested, convicted, or adjudicated for the act(s).
- E. Exceedingly inappropriate or offensive conduct such as assaulting staff or students (as defined in Policy 503.1), gross insubordination (talking back or refusing to cooperate with authorities), serious hazing or harassment of others. Note: This could include group conduct.
- F. **In addition, if the student's conduct either in or out of school is such as to make him/her unworthy to represent the ideals, principles or standards of the Greene County School District, the Superintendent of Schools or his/her designee shall declare the student ineligible.**

V. Sanction for Violation:

Participants who violate the provisions of this eligibility policy are subject to the following sanctions:

- A. First Offense (In middle school career or high school career)
  - 1. The student will not be permitted to dress for, or participate in 1/4 of the contests or performances of the activity or activities in which s/he was participating during the time of the violation based upon the total scheduled number of regular-season competitions for said activity(ies). The student must practice during the period of ineligibility and attend competitions as a non-participant. If the student is not currently in an activity, s/he will serve their suspension in the next activity in which s/he participates after the violation. **Students will not be allowed to begin participating in an activity already in progress in order to serve their Activity Eligibility/Good Conduct Policy penalty.** In addition, the participant and his/her parents will be required to meet with the activities director to discuss the violation, sign a contract, and make arrangements to perform twenty five (25) hours of community service. This will be set up with the approval of the activities director. The participant and their parent/guardian must also take part in counseling/education classes related to the area of the violation. The student will remain ineligible until each of the conditions has been met. The cost of the counseling/education will be paid for by the student/parents. A written report from the counselor must be provided to the activities director for review and verification of completion.

Class officers, Student Council members, National Honor Society members, and club members will forfeit said position(s) and all accompanying privileges for 45 attendance



days. If the student is reelected to either the position of Class Officer or Student Council, any remaining attendance days to be served will be done so at the beginning of the next term.

Community service hours related to this policy may not be used to also fulfill other community service related hours (NHS, Graduation related)

**In addition to the above penalty, a student found guilty of a serious criminal offense/felony offense may be declared ineligible for participation in activities for an additional period of time determined by the school administration.**

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B. Second Offense (In middle school career or high school career)

1. The student will not be permitted to dress for, or participate in 1/2 of the contests or performances of the activity or activities in which s/he was participating during the time of the violation based upon the total scheduled number of regular-season competitions for said activity(ies). The student must practice during the period of ineligibility and attend competitions as a non-participant. If the student is not currently in an activity, s/he will serve their suspension in the next activity in which s/he participates after the violation. **Students will not be allowed to begin participating in an activity already in progress in order to serve their Activity Eligibility/Good Conduct Policy penalty.** In addition, the participant and his/her parents will be required to meet with the activities director to discuss the violation, sign a contract, and make arrangements to perform fifty (50) hours of community service. This will be set up with the approval of the activities director. The participant and their parent/guardian must also take part in counseling/education classes related to the area of the violation. The student will remain ineligible until each of the conditions has been met. The cost of the counseling/education will be paid for by the student/parents. A written report from the counselor must be provided to the activities director for review and verification of completion.

Class Officers, Student Council members, National Honor Society members, or club members forfeit said position(s) and all accompanying privileges for 90 attendance days. If the student is reelected to either the position of Class Officer or Student Council, any remaining attendance days to be served will be done so at the beginning of the next term.

Community service hours related to this policy may not be used to also fulfill other community service related hours (NHS, Graduation related)

**In addition to the above penalty, a student found guilty of a serious criminal offense/felony offense may be declared ineligible for participation in activities for an additional period of time determined by the school administration.**

C. Third Offense (In middle school career or high school career)

1. The student will not be permitted to dress for, or participate in contests or performances for a minimum of one calendar year. In addition, the participant and his/her parents will be required to meet with the activities director to discuss the violation, sign a

contract, and make arrangements to perform one-hundred fifty (150) hours of community service. This will be set up with the approval of the activities director. The participant and their parent/guardian must also take part in counseling/education classes related to the area of the violation. Upon completion of these requirements, the student may appeal to the school board to have their activity eligibility reinstated. The student requesting reinstatement will be required to appear in front of the school board in closed session and present their case for reinstatement (impact community service, and counseling has had on them, why the board should reinstate them). The cost of the counseling/education will be paid for by the student/parents. A written report from the counselor must be provided to the activities director for review and verification of completion.

Class Officers, Student Council members, National Honor Society members, or club members forfeit said position(s) and all accompanying privileges for a minimum of one year and will be required to meet the same conditions above.

**In addition to the above penalty, a student found guilty of a serious criminal offense/felony offense may be declared ineligible for participation in activities for an additional period of time determined by the school administration.**

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Community service hours related to this policy may not be used to also fulfill other community service related hours (NHS, Graduation related)

D. Subsequent Violations

Any subsequent violations will result in students losing activity eligibility for the remainder of their career with no opportunity for reinstatement.

- E. A student is ineligible to speak at commencement or participate as a member of the Homecoming Court if s/he has been in violation of this policy two or more times in their high school career.

VI. Procedure:

Whenever it appears that a participant has violated one or more of the foregoing rules, the following procedure shall be involved:

Any student who is found by the administration to have violated the Good Conduct Rule may obtain review of this determination by the Superintendent by filing a written appeal within 5 days of being advised of the violation. The penalty will be in effect until reversed. If the student is still dissatisfied, he or she may seek further review by the School Board by filing a written appeal with the Board Secretary at least 24 hours prior to the next Board meeting. A special meeting may be called at the sole discretion of the board on a case-by-case basis. The review by the Board will be in closed session unless the student's parents (or the student, if the student is 18) requests an open session. The grounds for the review by the School Board are limited to the following: the student did not violate the Good Conduct Rule; the student was given inadequate due process in the investigation and determination; or the penalty is in violation of the Handbook Rule or Board Policy. The penalty will remain in effect pending the outcome of the meeting with the board.

If the School Board reverses the decision of the administration, the student shall be immediately eligible and shall have any record of the ineligibility period and violation deleted from the student's record.

Date of Adoption:  
January 8, 2014

Legal References:  
Bunger v. Iowa High School Athletic Assn., 197 N.W.  
2d 555 (Iowa 1972)  
In re Jason Clark, 1 D.P.I. App. Dec. 167 (1978)  
Iowa Code Sections 280.13, .13A (1989)  
670 Iowa Admin. Code 3.5 (2), 9.  
670 Iowa Admin. Code 4.3 (8) (new standards)

Date Amended:  
January 21, 2015

Related Administrative Rules and Regulations:

Date Reviewed: