

SECTION VIII

ACTIVITIES/ACADEMIC/SPIRIT

8.1 ACTIVITIES

8.1.1 Interscholastic Eligibility: Scholastic Requirements

- A. A Student shall have a 2.0 grade point average with no more than one (1) F, based on a 4.0 grading scale, or its equivalent, either cumulatively or for the six or nine week grading period immediately preceding participation. Grades earned during a summer session must be placed on a student's transcript by the school registrar prior to the first day of the Fall semester in order for the course to be utilized for eligibility purposes.
1. All class work counted for eligibility must be acceptable for graduation.
 2. The GPA is based on a 4.0 scale with an allowance for consideration of honors points.
 3. Cumulative provision
 - a. The cumulative provision may be applied only at the beginning of a semester.
 - b. Only semester grades can be used, and all semester grades starting with the 9th grade year must be utilized. (As cumulative grades start with the 9th grade year, the cumulative provision cannot be used for middle school/junior high Students.)
 - c. The cumulative provision may not be applied if a Student has more than one "F" in the semester grading period immediately preceding participation.
 - d. Stricter guidelines may be imposed by the local school board/district.
 4. A Student must be enrolled in more than half of the member school's regular class schedule and in regular attendance during the current as well as the previous grading period.
 5. A student enrolled in on campus courses for less than 51% of the school day will have their eligibility determined by semester grades only.
 6. Pursuant to State Statute 22-12-2.1.: Interscholastic extracurricular activities; student participation.
 - a. No student shall be absent from school for school-sponsored interscholastic extracurricular activities in excess of fifteen days per semester, and no class may be missed in excess of fifteen times per semester. Participation in state and national competitions is exempt.

8.1.2 Extracurricular Activities

Extracurricular activities are school sponsored activities not required by law or the Educational Standards for New Mexico Schools which have practice, meetings, events, performances, or interscholastic competition. Implementation of the Public School Reform Act precludes using school time for practice, meetings, and events.

Extracurricular activities provide worthwhile contributions to student growth and development. While these activities may have an indirect relation to the school's curriculum, extracurricular

activities do not include direct instruction of the state-required student competencies established in Educational Standards for New Mexico Schools.

GPA and attendance requirements of the Public School Code apply for all extracurricular activities. (See 8.1.1)

Q1: A Student is a member of a school's concert band. The school will be participating in the State Concert Band Contest. The Student has not met the minimum 2.0 or Cumulative GPA requirements for the previous grading period. Is the Student eligible to participate in the Contest?

A1: Since GPA and attendance requirements of the Public School Code apply for all extracurricular contests, the Student would be ineligible to participate.

8.1.3 Co-Curricular Activities

Co-curricular activities are activities that are an extension of classroom instruction which are governed by the Educational Standards for New Mexico Schools or local board policy. Classroom instruction should require no more than twenty (20) hours per month of time for a student outside of the regularly scheduled instructional day for practice, meetings, events, or performance. Co-curricular activities are required as part of the course work if a student is to receive credit for the course. Co-curricular activities do not require that students be absent from class other than the sponsoring class for practice, meetings, events, or performance. Scholastic requirements do not apply to co-curricular activities.

Q1: A student is enrolled in a marching band class which meets during the school day. The band will be performing during halftime of the homecoming football game. The student has not met the minimum 2.0 or Cumulative GPA requirement for the previous grading period. Is the student eligible to participate?

A1: If participation in the event is a required component of the class, and the event is not a contest, the student is eligible to participate.

8.1.4 Constitutions

Activities organizations that are affiliated with the Association must have a current constitution on file with the Activities Coordinator in the Association. These constitutions must be updated when applicable and should be received by the first day of the current school year.

8.1.5 Out-of-State Travel

Activities organizations that plan to compete or perform in interscholastic competitions outside the state of New Mexico must receive written approval from the local school district.

8.2 SPIRIT

Spirit, Cheer/Dance/Drill teams are all classified under Spirit within the Association. Though subject to some athletic requirements (physicals, coaching licensure, residence eligibility, etc.), they are presently considered an Activity.

8.2.1 Scholastic Eligibility

All Spirit Students must adhere to the same scholastic requirements set forth by the Association for athletic participation. (See 6.2 and 8.1.1)

8.2.2 Residency

All Spirit Students must adhere to the same residency requirements set forth by the Association for athletic participation. (See 6.3 and 8.2.5/8.2.6)

8.2.3 Coaches Education

All Coaches and Sponsors must have a coaching license which is issued by the State Education Agency and be an employee or have a contractual relationship with that particular school system (this applies to both voluntary and paid individuals). All cheer/dance/drill or spirit coaches/sponsors, and athletic coaches (or those individuals who fulfill the responsibilities attached to these groups or teams in said capacity) are required to be licensed by the state and must take the NMAA Coaches Education Program prior to filling the role of coach/sponsor/advisor. Requirements of this provision may be waived by the Secretary of Education for temporary licensure.

8.2.4 Physicals/Insurance/Catastrophic Insurance Requirements

Spirit participants must maintain an annual physical that is kept on file with the local school. Spirit participants must also have on file insurance coverage that includes all Students participating in any spirit organization.

8.2.5 Performances

For purposes of performances, i.e. pep assemblies, weekly games and half-time performances, Spirit Students may perform regardless of residency status. However, all Students must meet scholastic requirements in order to perform.

8.2.6 Competition

Spirit competitions, both locally and nationally, require participants to maintain minimum eligibility standards. Academic and residency transfer eligibility will apply to all participants.