

Book	Policy Manual
Section	Issue 4 of 2023 December READY FOR OSBA
Title	Interscholastic Athletics
Code	IGDJ
Status	

**~~\*\*This is the OSBA sample policy.\*\*~~**  
**Interscholastic Athletics**

Participation by students in athletic competition is a privilege subject to Board policies and regulations. While the Board takes great pride in winning, it emphasizes and requires good sportsmanship and a positive mental attitude as prerequisites to participation.

The Superintendent and administrative staff schedule frequent conferences with all physical education instructors, coaches and athletic directors to develop a constructive approach to physical education and athletics throughout the District and to maintain a program that is an educational activity.

Interscholastic athletic programs are subject to approval by the Board. The building principal is responsible for the administration of the interscholastic athletic program within his/her school. In discharging this responsibility, the principal consults with the athletic directors, coaches and physical education instructors on various aspects of the interscholastic athletic program. It is the responsibility of the principal and his/her staff to ensure the proper management of all athletic and physical education programs and the safety of students and the public.

The Board may require that students pay reasonable fees to participate in interscholastic athletics.

Coaches are required to complete all approved course work as specified by State law, the Ohio High School Athletic Association (OHSAA) and the Ohio Department of Education in order to qualify to serve as coaches.

In the conduct of interscholastic athletic programs, the rules, regulations and limitations outlined by State law must be followed. Programs regulated by OHSAA must also comply with all eligibility requirements established by the Association. It is the responsibility of the District's voting delegate to OHSAA to advise the management team of all pending changes in OHSAA's regulations.

A student must have the written permission of his/her parent(s) and shall have been determined as physically fit for the chosen sport by a licensed physician.

All students participating in interscholastic athletics must be covered by insurance. This insurance may be available for purchase through the District. If parents choose not to purchase insurance provided by the District, the parent(s) must sign a waiver ensuring that private coverage is provided.

As character building is one of the major objectives of interscholastic athletics, the athlete assumes responsibility for regulating his/her personal life in such ways as to make him/her a worthy representative of his/her school.

Any student may be suspended from an athletic team practice and competition for a period of time, designated by the principal, for infractions of school rules and regulations or for any other unacceptable conduct in or out of school.

Resident students enrolled in community schools are permitted to participate in the District's interscholastic athletics program at the school to which the student would be assigned. Students must be of the appropriate age and grade level as determined by the Superintendent, and must fulfill the same academic, nonacademic and financial requirements as any other participant.

Resident students attending STEM and STEAM schools are permitted to participate in the District's interscholastic athletics program at the school to which the student would be assigned. Students must be of the appropriate age and grade level as determined by the Superintendent, and must fulfill the same academic, nonacademic and financial requirements as any other participant.

Resident students attending a nonpublic school are permitted to participate in the District's interscholastic athletic programs at the school to which the student would be assigned if the nonpublic school in which the student is enrolled does not offer the activity. Students must be of the appropriate age and grade level as determined by the Superintendent and must fulfill the same academic, nonacademic and financial requirements as any other participant.

Resident students receiving home education in accordance with State law are permitted to participate in the District's interscholastic athletic programs at the school to which the student would be assigned. Students must be of the appropriate age and grade level as determined by the Superintendent and must fulfill the same ~~academic~~, nonacademic and financial requirements as any other participant.

*(Permissive language)*

A student receiving home education in accordance with State law who is not entitled to attend school in the District may be authorized by the Superintendent to participate in interscholastic athletic programs offered by a school of the District. The activity must be one the district the student is entitled to attend does not offer.

A student attending a nonpublic school located in the District who is not entitled to attend school in the District may be authorized by the Superintendent to participate in an extracurricular activity offered by a school of the District that is interscholastic athletics or interscholastic contests or competitions in music, drama or forensics when:

1. the activity is one the school in which the student is enrolled does not offer;
2. the student is not participating in the activity in the student's district of residence;
3. the superintendent of the student's district of residence certifies the student has not participated in any extracurricular activity that is interscholastic athletics or interscholastic contests or competitions in music, drama or forensics in the district for that school year and
4. the Superintendent and the superintendent of the student's district of residence mutually agree in writing to allow the student to participate in the activity.

Legal References:

ORC 2305.23  
ORC 2305.231  
ORC 3313.537  
ORC 3313.5310  
ORC 3313.5311  
ORC 3313.5312  
ORC 3313.5314  
ORC 3313.539  
ORC 3313.66  
ORC 3313.661  
ORC 3313.664  
ORC 3315.062  
ORC 3319.303  
ORC 3321.042  
ORC 3707.52  
OAC Chapter 3301-27

Cross References:

IGCH (Also LEC), College Credit Plus  
IGD, Cocurricular and Extracurricular Activities  
IGDK, Interscholastic Extracurricular Eligibility  
IKF, Graduation Requirements  
JECBA, Admission of Exchange Students  
JECBC, Admission of Students From Non-Chartered or Home Education  
JGD, Student Suspension  
JGE, Student Expulsion  
JN, Student Fees, Fines and Charges  
Student Handbooks

**NOTE:** Districts are required to allow resident students enrolled in community schools (House Bill (HB) 487 (2014)), STEM and STEAM schools to participate in the District's extracurricular activities.

*HB 59, effective September 29, 2013, requires districts to allow resident students who are receiving home education to participate in extracurricular activities at the school to which they would be assigned. Districts are also required to allow resident students attending a chartered or non-chartered nonpublic school to participate in extracurricular activities in the school to which the student would be assigned if the activity is one that the nonpublic school they are enrolled in does not offer. Students participating under these provisions must be of the appropriate grade and age level as determined by the Superintendent and must meet the same academic, nonacademic and financial requirements as any other student. Districts are prohibited from imposing additional rules or fees on a student participating under these provisions that are not applied to other students participating in the same program.*

Senate Bill (SB) 3 (2016) added Ohio Revised Code (RC) 3313.5314 stating that students attending the District or nonpublic school, community school, STEM and STEAM school students, or students receiving home education, otherwise eligible to participate in extracurricular activities in the District cannot be denied the opportunity to participate in extracurricular activities in the District solely because of their participation in CCP. Students still must meet the District eligibility requirements.

Districts may allow nonpublic, community, STEM and STEAM school students who are not eligible to enroll in the District the opportunity to participate in an extracurricular activity operated by a school of the District if the activity is one the school the student is enrolled in does not offer, and the activity is not interscholastic athletics or interscholastic competitions in music, drama or forensics. The Superintendent may also allow a student receiving home education not eligible to enroll in the District to participate in an extracurricular activity offered by one of the schools if it is an activity the district in which they are eligible to enroll does not offer.

SB 3 (2016) also allows the Superintendent to allow a nonresident student attending a nonpublic school located in the District the ability to participate in an activity that is interscholastic athletics or interscholastic competitions in music, drama or forensics provided certain criteria are met.

HB 49 (2017) revised language in RC 3313.5310 requiring a student wishing to participate in athletics to submit a form signed by the student and parent stating that both have received and reviewed a copy of the sudden cardiac arrest guidelines. The change requires the form to be submitted once annually, rather than each school year for every athletic activity in which the student participates.

### **THIS IS A REQUIRED POLICY**

Legal

[ORC 2305.23](#)

[ORC 2305.231](#)

[ORC 3313.537](#)

[ORC 3313.5310](#)

[ORC 3313.5311](#)

[ORC 3313.5312](#)

[ORC 3313.5314](#)

[ORC 3313.539](#)

[ORC 3313.66](#)

[ORC 3313.661](#)

[ORC 3313.664](#)

[ORC 3315.062](#)

[ORC 3319.303](#)

[ORC 3321.04](#)

[ORC 3707.52](#)

[OAC Chapter 3301-27](#)