

# Extracurricular Activities, Clubs, and Organizations

Participation in school and school-related activities is an excellent way for a student to develop talents, receive individual recognition, and build strong friendships with other students; participation, however, is a privilege, not a right.

Eligibility for participation in many of these activities is governed by state law as well as rules of the University Interscholastic League (UIL)—a statewide association overseeing inter-district competition.

The following requirements apply to all extracurricular activities:

- A student who receives a grade below 70 at the end of a grading period may not participate in extracurricular activities for a time period, as stipulated in the *UIL Side-by-Side FM(Legal)*. Students in advanced courses, such as pre-AP, AP, GT courses, and dual credit college courses, are required to maintain a passing standard of 60 or higher in order to maintain UIL eligibility FMF(Local). Students who fall below this passing standard will lose UIL eligibility in accordance with UIL regulations and for the period of time identical to students who lose eligibility in non-advanced courses.
- A student who has an individualized education program (IEP) who fails to meet the standards in the IEP may not participate for a time period, as stipulated in the *UIL Side-by-Side*.
- An ineligible student may practice or rehearse.
- A student is allowed in a school year up to ten absences not related to post-district competition, a maximum of five absences for post-district competition prior to state, and a maximum of two absences for state competition. All extracurricular activities and public performances, whether UIL activities or other activities approved by the Board, are subject to these restrictions.
- A student who misses a class because of participation in an activity that has not been approved will receive an unexcused absence unless the absence is excused by campus administration.

Sponsors and coaches of extracurricular activities, including but not limited to: interscholastic athletics, cheerleaders, drill teams, and marching bands, may develop and enforce standards of behavior that are higher than the District-developed Student Code of Conduct and may condition membership or participation in the activity on adherence to those standards. These higher standards are outlined in each extracurricular group's guidelines and constitutions. Extracurricular standards of behavior may take into consideration conduct that occurs at any time, on or off school property. No provision of an extracurricular behavioral standard shall have the effect of discriminating on the basis of sex, race, disability, religion, or ethnicity.

Expected standards of behavior shall be approved by the principal and the Superintendent or designee before they are communicated to students. Students shall be informed of any extracurricular behavior standards at the beginning of each school year or, in the case of interscholastic athletics, cheerleaders, drill team, and marching band, at the time the students report for workouts or practices that occur prior to the actual beginning of classes. Students and their parents shall sign and return to the sponsor or coach a statement that they have read the extracurricular behavior standards and consent to them as a condition of participation in the activity, as well as signing the District's "Extracurricular/Co-curricular Student Pledge of Conduct."

Organizational standards of conduct of an extracurricular activity are independent of the *Student Handbook and Code of Conduct*. Violations of the organization's standards of conduct that are also violations of the *Student Handbook and Code of Conduct* may result in school-assessed disciplinary actions. Likewise, students who violate the District's *Student Handbook and Code of Conduct* will be assessed appropriate disciplinary consequences for the infraction and the consequences may result in a student's removal or limited participation in an extracurricular activity if the disciplinary action or level of offense violates the higher standards of conduct specified by the student's extracurricular organization.

Administrators and sponsors are expected to discipline students according to established rules.  
*Board Policies FM (LEGAL/LOCAL), FNC (LOCAL), and FO (LEGAL/LOCAL)*

Sponsors of student clubs and performing groups such as the band, choir, and drill and athletic teams may establish standards of behavior—including consequences for misbehavior—that are stricter than those for students in general. If a violation is also a violation of school rules, the consequences specified by the Student Code of Conduct or by local policy will apply in addition to any consequences specified by the organization.

[For further information, see policies FM and FO.]

Extracurricular and co-curricular activities are a privilege. Students who participate in extracurricular and/or co-curricular activities in grades 6-12 are held to a higher standard. Inappropriate behavior including but not limited to the following will not be tolerated: drinking alcoholic beverages or using tobacco illegally, taking illegal drugs or being in possession of drug paraphernalia, or attending or remaining at an activity where alcohol, drugs, or tobacco

are being consumed illegally. Other offenses that violate the Student Code of Conduct and comprise the integrity and credibility of the organization(s) may comprise other examples of such behaviors. The consequences for violating the Pledge are outlined in detail on the pledge form. The Pledge is in effect at all times. The Pledge in no way replaces or supersedes the Student Code of Conduct or *Texas Education Code*, and in no way supersedes the mandates of the *Texas Education Code*. Violation of the Pledge may also constitute a violation of the Student Code of Conduct. If it does, disciplinary action under the Student Code of Conduct may also be imposed by the District. Students who participate in extra/co-curricular activities are required to follow the Pledge in order to participate in those activities. The “Extracurricular/Co-curricular Student Pledge of Conduct” follows:

**EXTRACURRICULAR/CO-CURRICULAR STUDENT PLEDGE OF CONDUCT**  
**I pledge to abide by requirements**  
**established by Northwest Independent School District**  
**in order to be allowed to participate in any extracurricular/co-Curriculum activities.**

Consequences for violating the “Extracurricular/Co-curricular Student Conduct” will be in effect for all students participating in extracurricular/co-curricular activities for up one full calendar year from the date the student and parent were notified of the known violation.

**FIRST VIOLATION**

- The suspension from extracurricular contest/competitions will cover 15 instructional school days, including weekends and/or contest/competitions following the date the student and parent are notified. If the incident happens during a holiday the student may not participate during that time and once school reconvenes.
- During the period of suspension, the student will be allowed to practice before or after school, attend, and participate in any practice of extracurricular or co-curricular activities.
- The University Interscholastic League may set other standards, which will require compliance of students in UIL-sponsored groups.

**SECOND VIOLATION**

- The student shall be suspended from any extracurricular activity for 90 instructional school days, including weekends and/or activities following the date the student and parent are notified. If the incident happened during a holiday the student may not participate during that time, and once school reconvenes, the student will continue the 90 day suspension from the activity.
- During the period of suspension, the student will be allowed to practice before or after school, attend, and participate in any practice of extracurricular or co-curricular activities.
- The University Interscholastic League may set other standards, which will require compliance of students in UIL-sponsored groups.

**THIRD VIOLATION**

- The student will be removed from participation in extracurricular or co-curricular activities for one calendar year. After the one-year suspension, the student must apply for reinstatement to a campus committee that will review the student’s academic, attendance, and behavior records.
- The University Interscholastic League may set other standards, which will require compliance of students in UIL-sponsored groups.

In order for a student to be considered in violation, any one of the following conditions must occur:

1. The student must admit to a violation.
2. The parent of the student must admit to the violation.
3. A NISD staff member must witness the student in violation.
4. A local agency report or citation must be filed. (Including, but not limited to, DWI–Driving While Intoxicated, DUI–Driving Under the Influence, MIP–Minor in Possession, and MIC–Minor in Consumption)

A violation is defined as follows:

1. The use, sale, possession, and/or possession of illegal drugs and/or alcohol.
2. The depictions of the use, sale, possession and/or distribution of illegal drugs and/or alcohol.
3. The presence at a gathering where illegal drugs and/or alcohol are used, possessed, sold and/or distributed illegally.
4. Any offenses for which a student can be according to the Student Code of Conduct:
  - suspended,
  - placed in a Disciplinary Alternative Education Program (DAEP), or
  - expelled.
5. Any other offense that violates the Student Code of Conduct and comprises the integrity and credibility of the organization(s).