

STUDENTS

Series 500

Policy Title _____ Good Conduct Rule _____

Code No. _____ 503.04 _____

Participation in school activities is a privilege. School activities provide the benefits of promoting additional interests and abilities in the students during their school years and for their lifetimes.

Students who participate in extracurricular activities serve as ambassadors of the school district throughout the calendar year, whether away from school or at school. Students who wish to have the privilege of participating in extracurricular activities must conduct themselves in accordance with board policy and must refrain from activities which are illegal, or unhealthy.

Students who fail to abide by this policy and the administrative regulations supporting it may be subject to disciplinary measures. The principal will keep records of violations of the good conduct rule.

It is the responsibility of the superintendent to develop rules and regulations for school activities. Students wanting to participate in school activities must meet the requirements set out by the school district for participation in the activity.

To be eligible for extracurricular activities, or school sponsored activities, students must demonstrate good student conduct in school and lead lawful, healthy, drug-free lifestyles both in and out of school at all times.

The Good Conduct Rule applies to all students who by choice, or by election from their peers, participate in extracurricular activities considered to be voluntary in nature. A violation of the Good Conduct Rule shall result in the student's ineligibility to participate in the extracurricular activity according to the regulations and rules established by the school administration and approved by the Board of Education.

The Good Conduct Rule is deemed necessary and reasonable due to the increased visibility the student acquires through participation in the extracurricular activity. Increased visibility is often a result of public performance(s) or exhibition(s), bringing recognition to the participant(s), coach(es)/activity sponsor(s), peer member(s), and the school and community. The increased visibility associated with extracurricular participation may become disruptive to the school's operation when students demonstrate poor student conduct, unlawful behaviors, or unhealthy drug-related lifestyles.

Extracurricular activities that are graded or otherwise made necessary to fulfill course requirements are not considered voluntary activities, and therefore, are exempt from the Good Conduct Rule. Other exemptions include any activity generally accessible to students in the regular rank and file. Such activities include commencement, prom, and school dances.

The extracurricular activities or school-sponsored activities covered by the Good Conduct Rule are designated in the middle school and high school student-parent handbooks. It is the responsibility of the administration to determine which activities shall be covered by the Good Conduct Rule on an annual basis.

Specific rules and regulations regarding good student conduct, academic eligibility, ineligibility penalties, reduction of penalties, suspension consequences, and appeals, shall be the responsibility of the superintendent and building principals. Principals shall provide due process to enforce the rules and record each violation during the years of attendance in either the middle school or high school. Students transferring in with pending or continuing Good Conduct Rule violations from their previous school shall be served according to the previous school's Good Conduct Rule.

Progressive penalties shall be established for possession, use, or distribution of tobacco, alcohol, controlled substances (narcotics, prescription drugs, illegal drugs), uncontrolled substances (overdose of nonprescription drugs, sniffing/huffing agents or similar chemical substances used to "get high"), and unlawful activities other

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minor traffic violations, both in and out of school at all times, year-round.

Any student who is found by the building principal to have violated the Good Conduct Policy may appeal this determination to the superintendent by contacting the superintendent within three days of being advised of the violation. The penalty shall be in effect pending the superintendent's decision, and later, if appealed to the Board of Education (a three-member hearing panel).

Legal Reference:

Bunger v. Iowa High School Athletic Assn., 197 N.W. 2nd 555 (Iowa 1972).

In re Jason Clark, 1 D.P.I. App. Dec. 167 (1978).

Iowa Code §§ 280.13, .13A (2009).

281 I.A.C. 12.3(6); 36.15(1).

Cross Reference:

502.00 Student Rights and Responsibilities

503.00 Student Discipline

504.00 Student Activities

Date of Adoption: March 16, 2010 (Revised) _____

Related _____ Administration _____ Rules _____ and _____ Regulations: _____

Good Conduct Rule To be eligible for participation in George-Little Rock Middle School and High School extracurricular activities, students must conduct themselves as good citizens both in and out of school at all time. Students who represent the school in an activity are expected to serve as good role models to other students and to members of the community.

Violation of the Good Conduct Rule Any student who, after a hearing at which the student shall be confronted with the allegation, the basis of the allegation and given an opportunity to tell the student's side, is found to have violated the school's Good Conduct Rule will be deemed ineligible for a period of time as described below. A student may lose eligibility under the Good Conduct Rule for any of the following behaviors:

1. possession, use, or purchase of tobacco products, regardless of the student's age;
2. possession, use, or purchase of alcoholic beverages, including beer and wine; "use" includes having the odor of alcohol on one's breath;
3. being in attendance at a party where alcohol or other illegal drugs are being consumed by minors; and the student did not make a reasonable effort to leave the party to maintain innocence;
4. possession, use, or purchase of illegal drugs or the unauthorized possession, use, or purchase of otherwise lawful drugs;
5. engaging in any act that would be grounds for arrest or citation in the criminal or juvenile court system, excluding minor traffic offenses, regardless whether the student was cited, arrested, convicted, or adjudicated for the act(s);

The Principal Establishes Violation of the Good Conduct Rule if...

1. the student is reported by law enforcement or the juvenile court system for an act that would be grounds for arrest or citation in the criminal or juvenile court system, excluding minor traffic offenses, regardless whether the student was cited, arrested, convicted, or adjudicated for the act(s);
2. the student admits to violation of the student Good Conduct Rule, or
3. the student is witnessed violating any part of the student Good Conduct Rule by faculty member(s), administrative member(s) or support staff.

Penalties:

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| <u>First Offense</u> | Within the Student's High School Career: Six (6) calendar weeks of ineligibility. |
| <u>Second Offense</u> | Within the Student's High School or Middle School Career: Twelve (12) calendar weeks of ineligibility. |
| <u>Third Offense</u> | Within the Student's High School or Middle School Career: Fifty two (52) calendar weeks of ineligibility. |

The period of ineligibility attaches immediately upon a finding of a violation if the student is currently engaged in an extracurricular activity and, if not, is begun commencing with the first performance of the next activity.

Ineligibility that extends past one season to another shall commence with the first practice date of the next season.

Students previously involved in speech or drama may expend two (2) weeks of ineligibility during these seasons with the balance of ineligibility being served in the next activity.

However, if the period of time between a violation and an activity is twelve (12) calendar months or more, the student shall not serve the ineligibility period for the violation. An ineligible student shall attend all athletic practices or rehearsals but may not "suit up" nor perform/participate. If the student drops out of an activity prior to the completion of the period of ineligibility, the penalty or the remainder of the penalty will attach when the student next seeks to go out for an activity, subject to the twelve month limitation above. Ineligible suspension periods do not include breaks due to school holidays, vacation time, or time between sport-/extracurricular seasons.

Reduction of Penalty:

1. Evaluation and Treatment: A student who has a second violation of the alcohol and drug provisions of the Good Conduct Rule may elect to seek evaluation and, if recommended, treatment from the Northwest Iowa Alcoholism and Drug Treatment Unit, Inc., at 803 S. Greene, Suite 3, Rock Rapids, Iowa. The telephone number for the Rock Rapids office is 712-472-3442. If the student waives confidentiality and allows the facility to report back to the principal regarding completion of the treatment program and follow-up care, the student's penalty for each violation is reduced by one-third (1/3) weeks.
2. Admission Prior to Determination: If a student comes forward to a coach, activity sponsor, athletic director, or administrator and admits guilt (self-report) to a violation of the Good Conduct Rule prior to the administration determination that a violation has occurred, the student's penalty may be reduced one week for each event.

One and two may not be combined to lessen the penalty.

Academic Consequences Students serving in-school or out-of-school suspensions are ineligible for performance and practice(s) during the suspension period.

Appeals Any student who is found by the administration to have violated the Good Conduct Rule may appeal this determination to the superintendent within three (3) school days of being advised of the violation. The penalty will be in effect pending the superintendent's decision.

If the student is still dissatisfied, he or she may appeal to the school board by filing a written appeal with the board secretary. The board will appoint a three member hearing panel. The board president will serve as chairperson. A school board member will also serve. The third party will be any person the board selects but it will not be a third school board member. The review by the panel 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 appeal to 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 Student Handbook Rule or Board Policy. The penalty will remain in effect pending the outcome of the meeting of the panel.

If the hearing panel 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.

The Good Conduct Rule is established to provide a setting in which participants in the school extra-curricular programs will conduct themselves in an exemplary manner. Failure to do so may result in a period of ineligibility.

Students who transfer into the district must also be exemplary representatives of the school district. Therefore, a transfer student who is declared ineligible in his/her school district due to a good conduct rule violation, will not be allowed to participate until the time of ineligibility established in the student's prior district is served and expires. Once the period of ineligibility has been completed, the student will become eligible for interscholastic competition so far as the Good Conduct Rule is concerned.

This policy supports the idea of being fair and consistent for all students who participate in any extra-curricular program across the state.

