

CO-CURRICULAR PARTICIPATION POLICY

This policy was revised in the spring of 2006 and approved by the Board of Education. It applies to student eligibility for all co-curricular activities. The policy is monitored by individual advisors and coaches and, as described below under "Special Notes," enforcement is supervised by the appropriate supervisor.

A. PHILOSOPHY: The ultimate purpose of education in West Irondequoit is to provide for the full implementation of the Plan for Peak Performance. Within that context, each student becomes responsible for his/her academic performance and social behavior, including a chemical free life style. In partnership, school and parents will monitor each student's progress and work together when commendations, adjustments, and/or discipline are needed.

Co-Curricular involvement is an integral part of the total educational program since it forms a connection between the student and the school community and nurtures each students' special interests and abilities. Co-curricular participation is not a right; it is an honor and a privilege.

Note that although these co-curricular rules are in effect during the time of student co-curricular participation unless otherwise noted, it is expected that each student will make a commitment to life-long learning, good citizenship, and a chemically healthy lifestyle at all times.

B. STANDARDS: In order to be eligible for co-curricular participation at the secondary level, a student must:

1. Be enrolled in 5 academic classes plus physical education. (Any exception here must be approved by the building principal).
2. Have not failed more than 2 courses the quarter prior to current involvement. (Does not apply to 1st quarter 7th graders or to major one-time activities such as the Junior Prom, the Senior Ball, the Senior Banquet, and Commencement).
3. Remain chemically free.
4. Not participate in any type of hazing or harassment type activities as defined in the Behavior section of the student handbook.
5. Meet all attendance requirements as stated in the student handbook.
6. Exhibit acceptable social behaviors and citizenship.

* Candidates for Student Council and Class Government must meet all standards of the Co-Curricular Policy. The opportunity for probation is not available. Candidates must also be passing all courses in the quarter **prior** to the election with an overall average of no less than 70%.

C. PENALTIES:

1. Warnings may be given at any time an activity advisor/coach or administrator feels one is necessary.
2. **Probation** will result if the student has:
 - a. 2 failures
 - b. Prior quarter cumulative average of less than 70
 - c. Unacceptable behavior of a minor nature as defined elsewhere in the student handbook.
 - d. Excessive tardiness.
 - e. Multiple truancy violations.

Probation in b (above) means that a student has 5 weeks to bring his/her average up to 70.

Probation in c, d, or e means that further unacceptable behavior of that nature will result in at least a one week suspension from the organization.

Note for (a) (Two failure probation): Progress at the 5 week point of the quarter following that during which the failures(s) occurred will be monitored. A form will be sent to the teachers of the courses failed by the student participant asking three questions:

- a. Are the student's assignments complete and turned in?
- b. Is the student's attendance truancy free?
- c. Is the student making an effort to improve?

If all answers to these questions are "YES", the student will remain eligible through the quarter. If both teachers have given one or more "NO" answers, the student's eligibility will cease for the duration of the quarter.

3. **Suspension** from the organization will result if the student has:
 - a. 3 or more failures in the previous quarter. (Suspension here is through the current quarter.)
 - b. Shown unacceptable behavior of a serious or chronic nature. (Suspension here is relative to the seriousness of the infraction as defined in the student handbook).
 - c. Had any confirmed* chemical use violation (including those outside of school).

First Offense for chemical use: Suspension is for the duration of the season or activity in the current school year. Voluntary entrances into the *INSIGHT Program*, or another agreed upon program, may limit ineligibility to a minimum of two weeks.

Second Offense: Student forfeits his/her eligibility to participate in co-curricular activities for one year to date

of

the infraction.

Third Offense: Student forfeits his/her eligibility to participate in co-curricular activities for the duration of his/her high school career.

***Confirmation of use:** It will be deemed as sufficient evidence when a member of the West Irondequoit teaching, coaching or administrative staff or a recognized law enforcement agency becomes knowledgeable of any use by a co-curricular participant.

Other notes regarding chemical use:

- Under the district's zero-tolerance policy, if the use, possession or being under the influence takes place at a school-related event, a mandatory long-term suspension will result, including **automatic suspension from all co-curricular activities**.
- The season is defined as the **first day of the month of the** first meeting or practice through the last scheduled **post season** team activity.
- Under this policy, possession of prohibited substances or paraphernalia is deemed the same as use and is a violation.

SPECIAL NOTES

1. An organization may adopt more stringent policies, with approval of the Building Principal.
2. Active enforcement of rules by parents, all school personnel, friends and peers is encouraged.
3. Parents are encouraged to support the no-use code and to sponsor chemical free functions for their children (i.e. video parties, cast parties, end of the season celebrations). Parents also are invited to participate in the "Parents Who Care" directory and to attend informal events sponsored by the "Parents Who Host Lose the Most" group.
4. Organization advisors/coaches will monitor their students' progress throughout the season. All probation or suspension penalties will be determined and enforced in consultation between the advisor/coach and the appropriate supervisor (Director of Athletic, Coordinator of Performing Arts, or Coordinator of Student Activities), subject to the approval of the Principal. If in the judgment of the Principal, exceptions to the policy are in the best interest of the student and the educational priorities of the school, the Principal may make such exceptions.
5. **Appeals Procedure:** Any student wishing to appeal disciplinary action must, within two days of the action, submit in writing to the Building Principal the reason(s) why the penalty should not be enforced in this case. If the building Principal feels it is warranted, exceptions may be made.

Special Note regarding the Junior Prom, Senior Ball, and Senior Banquet:

The Co-Curricular Participation Policy and the IHS Promotion Policy are intended to assure to the extent possible that the programs and practices of Irondequoit High School are consistent with the school and district educational goals. The Co-Curricular Policy clearly states that participation in Co-Curricular activities is an "honor" and a "privilege." In conjunction with other policies, the Co-Curricular Participation Policy and Promotion Policy are intended to provide educational incentives for students who approach their academic work, behavior, and attendance responsibly, and not for those who do not. Accordingly, the administration of the policies will support this intention.

The Junior Prom, Senior Ball, and Senior Banquet are open to qualified students in good standing under the Co-Curricular Policy. In certain cases, the high school administration (Assistant Principals and Principal) may need to take action to insure that the intentions of the policies remain intact. Such cases, in general, emerge from attempts to manipulate the policies and practices relating to the Junior Prom, the Senior Ball, and the Senior Banquet. The cases include, but are not limited to, the following, and will be addressed as indicated:

Students who are not eligible to attend events at the time they drop out of school will not be allowed to attend events in the same year they have dropped out.

- Students who have failed to be promoted to the class hosting the event (Junior or Senior).

[Where, in the judgment of the high school administration, such students attempt to manipulate the procedures or undermine the purposes of the policies by arranging to attend an event as the guest of a bonafide Junior or Senior, they will not be allowed to attend.]

Former students whose record of infractions while attending IHS is extensive will not be permitted to attend any of these functions.

- Other situations which involve apparent manipulation of any policies or practices in order to gain the privilege of attendance at events where such attendance undermines the purposes and intent of the policies.

[These will be reviewed on a case by case basis by the high school administration. Where, in the judgment of the high school administration, such manipulation is determined to exist, the student involved will not be allowed to attend.]

Students are cautioned to assure that both they and their dates are and will remain eligible to attend events prior to making arrangements or investments in such events.