

EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES ELIGIBILITY POLICY

The Board of Education of the Berlin Central School District recognizes the importance of the extracurricular life of the school and supports the concept of a diverse extracurricular program to enable each student to achieve full potential. The Board supports the assignment of staff for the formation of student groups for any of the following purposes:

1. Developing academic interests.
2. Developing athletic interests.
3. Providing for social interaction and the development of positive social relationships.
4. Developing understanding of the responsibilities and characteristics of good citizenship.

Students participating in such activities, do so as representatives of the District. Their conduct is expected to be exemplary. Participation in extracurricular activities is elective and a privilege. It is not an entitlement.

Student participation in extra-curricular activities can be a rewarding and valuable experience. It can facilitate the development of leadership and socialization skills, as well as learning the value of contribution to group efforts. Participation in sports can also increase physical fitness.

By establishing rules of eligibility, the intent of the Board is to encourage each student to work to the best of his/her academic ability, attend school regularly, have a positive attitude, and behave in an appropriate manner. As members of a team or organization, students represent the Berlin Central school community. Therefore, certain responsibilities accompany participation in these activities. The following eligibility rules and consequences resulting from abuse of them should be read and understood by everyone involved, including students, their parents or guardians.

Extra-curricular activities include all activities that are non-credit bearing. This includes but is not limited to: participation in clubs, dances, proms, plays, athletic events, etc.

Academic Eligibility

Academic eligibility applies to all extra-curricular activities.

A student must maintain a 70 average overall and not fail more than one credit-bearing course. All half-year courses are evaluated as a full year course, i.e., based on the quarter's performance. If a grade is issued on the report card, the grade must be factored into the average. Incompletes must be for extreme circumstance and will be handled via a committee review. Modified team members will follow the eligibility rules.

Eligibility status for students will be based on the 5 week (mid-term) and the 10 week (quarterly) grades. A student whose academic average is below 70 and/or is failing two or more subjects will become ineligible. The ineligibility period starts at 7:30 AM, the day following the issuance of the ineligible list from the main office and will last for one week (7 days). During this week the student may practice with the team, however; the student will not be allowed to participate in any interscholastic contests until he or she regains eligibility.

How to regain eligibility:

Students will be ineligible for one week (7 day) periods. After the first week of ineligibility, the student will take a status report form to all teachers of his or her classes and those teachers will give that student a grade of satisfactory (S) or unsatisfactory (U) for that week.

S = grade of 70% or more

U = grade of less than 70%

Two grades of "U" (unsatisfactory) in any one week period will result in that student being ineligible for the following week. During this period of ineligibility, the student will not be allowed to participate in interscholastic contests, but will be allowed to practice.

If the student becomes eligible (no more than one "U" on weekly status report, and an average of at least 70% on a quarterly report card) he or she will be allowed to play in interscholastic contests. However, this student will continue to have his or her academic progress reevaluated each week by the athletic director (for sports), or the principal (non-athletic extra-curricular programs) for the remainder of the season or program.

Attendance Eligibility

Students participating in extra-curricular activities must be in attendance the day before, the day of, and the day after the event unless the absence has been cleared in advance with the building administration.

For any other reason than those previously cleared, the parent/guardian must verbally communicate with the school attendance officer on the day of the absence the reason(s) for such absence. (Only legal absences will be accepted.)

- Students illegally absent the day before will not participate the next day of the activity.
- Students illegally absent the day of the activity will not be able to attend the event that day.
- Students illegally absent the day after the activity will not participate in the next activity.

If the parent/guardian does not contact the school, or the absence has not been cleared in advance by the administration, the student will be subject to the above restrictions.

Behavior Eligibility

Out-of School Suspension:

Students suspended from school will not participate in any regularly scheduled extra-curricular activities for a period of two (2) weeks. This two-week period begins on the date the student completes the suspension.

Two suspensions will result in the student being ineligible for all extracurricular activities for the remainder of the semester.

In-School Suspension:

Students assigned in school suspension for three periods or more in one day will be ineligible for participation in extra-curricular activities for a period of one (1) week. This suspension begins on the date the student completes the in-school suspension. Ineligibility also includes days of the suspension.

Detention:

Students assigned detention may not participate in extra-curricular activities during the time of detention. Assigned detentions will not be altered to accommodate participation in extra curricular activities except during tryouts.