

ELLSWORTH SCHOOL DEPARTMENT**GRADES 5-8 CO-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES**

The Ellsworth School Department Board (ESDB) believes that student co-curricular activities (CCA) are an integral part of school life and are used as a means of developing wholesome attitudes and good interpersonal relations as well as knowledge and skills.

Although these activities often require as much careful planning and supervision as student experiences in academic subject areas, CCA participation must not take precedence over academics or jeopardize student achievement. The ESDB has therefore established eligibility, sportsmanship/ citizenship standards and other requirements in order to provide quality co-curricular experiences for all Ellsworth School Department Schools.

For the purpose of this policy: “co-curricular activity” and “activity” refer to any Ellsworth School Department school-sponsored activity, athletic and non-athletic, for which a grade is not received; “physician” includes physicians, dentists, nurses and other licensed health professionals when prescribing/performing within the scope of their licensed authority; “advisor” refers to an activity’s coach, director or advisor; and “parent” refers to the student’s parent or guardian.

Participation in CCAs is a privilege, not a right. Before a student may participate in any CCA during the current school year, he/she must acknowledge by signature that he/she has read and understands the terms of this policy and agree to comply with them. The student’s parent/guardian must also acknowledge by signature that he/she has read the policy and understands that the student’s participation in any CCA is subject to the terms of this policy. Only one student and parent acknowledgement will be required per school year.

A. Medical Approval

1. Athletics

All Ellsworth School Department CCA participants must have a physical examination by a licensed physician, at their own expense, prior to participating in interscholastic or intramural athletic activities. Student participants will be required to have a physical examination annually. The previous provision notwithstanding, additional physical examinations may be required, at parent or guardian expense, by the building administrator if the student’s coach, athletic director, or building administrator are concerned about the effect of continued participation on the student’s health, based on observation of the student in practice or competition. In the event of an injury which precludes participation in athletic activity, the student’s physician and parent must provide written approval before the student may resume participation.

2. Non-athletics

In the event an extended illness or injury (5 or more consecutive days) precludes participation in non-athletic programs, the student’s physician and parent must give written approval to the BA before the student may resume participation.

B. Insurance

Proof of insurance and permission for emergency medical treatment must be presented before a student may participate in any Ellsworth School Department CCA.

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C. Eligibility

1. Academic

To be eligible for participation in CCA at Ellsworth Elementary Middle School, a student must be earning passing grades in all scheduled courses. Beginning with the start of the activity student grades will be checked every two weeks to determine eligibility in math, ELA, science, and social studies. Grades for health, physical education, music, and art will be checked when progress reports and report cards are issued. Students who are failing or have incomplete grades in one or more courses will be placed on a three-step academic improvement program. Students who are failing a course or courses but are working consistently with the teacher during the school day and after school, may be determined to be eligible with approval of the building administrator. The building administrator's determination will be made after consulting with the teacher.

Academic Warning – If following a two-week grade check, a student is not eligible, he/she will be placed on Academic Warning for a period of two weeks. During the two-week warning period, the student is permitted full participation. At the end of the two week period, the student must be meeting eligibility standards or they will be placed on Academic Probation. The student's parent/guardian will be notified at the beginning of the period and notified of the student's status at the end of the period.

Academic Probation – If the student is not eligible at the end of the Academic Warning period, he/she will be placed on Academic Probation for a period of two weeks. During the two week probation period, the student may participate in practices or rehearsals, but not in any competitions or performances. The student may be reinstated once he/she is meeting eligibility standards. For this purpose, student work must be graded and reported within two (2) school days from the time it is turned in. The student's parent/guardian will be notified at the beginning of the period and notified of the student's status at the end of the period or when the student regains full eligibility status.

Academic Suspension – Students who are not meeting academic eligibility standards at the end of the two-week Academic Probation period will be placed on Academic Suspension. The Academic Suspension period will last until the student has regained full eligibility status. For the purposes of this section, student work must be graded and reported within two (2) school days from the time it is turned in. During the suspension period, the student will remain a member of the team/group but will not be permitted to attend and participate in practices/rehearsals or contests/competitions. The student's parent/guardian will be notified at the beginning of the period and notified when the student regains full eligibility status.

Students who are not eligible at the beginning of a season/activity are permitted to "try out" for that activity. If the student is selected for that activity, they will remain on the current step of the Academic Improvement Program until they regain full eligibility status.

2. Disciplinary

Students assigned a detention on the day of a practice, game, or performance must attend the detention on the day assigned. The student may participate in CCAs following the detention. Students assigned multiple detentions will incur additional consequences, including but not limited to loss of the next game/practice/rehearsal, removal from team/activity for a week, removal from team/activity for remainder of the season.

Students serving a suspension may not participate in any CCA's activities during the assigned suspension.

ELLSWORTH SCHOOL DEPARTMENT**D. Care and Responsibility of Equipment**

It is the student's responsibility to care for any Ellsworth School Department equipment issued to him/her during the school year. Any student who does not return all equipment will be billed accordingly. The student will not be allowed to participate in any CCA until equipment is returned or paid for.

E. Travel

Any student traveling to or from an away site will travel with the rest of his/her group via school transportation. Exceptions may be made with prior approval from the BA, director/advisor or coach. Parental notes or witnessed parent verbal approval must accompany any exception.

F. Sportsmanship/Citizenship

An individual who is a member of any activity is expected to demonstrate good sportsmanship/ citizenship including proper respect for coaches, teachers, officials, fellow activity members and school property. Failure to exhibit good citizenship may result in removal from the activity. Determination of this may be made by the BA or respective activity director/coach.

It is the responsibility of the entire Ellsworth School Department community and the public to exhibit good sportsmanship/ citizenship during CCA events. Behavior such as booing, jeering, applauding errors, using profane language, throwing objects, and harassing officials are some actions which reflect poor sportsmanship/citizenship and will not be tolerated. Students are expected to treat visiting teams, fans and game officials in a manner which will reflect favorably upon Ellsworth School Department and the communities.

G. Grooming

Ellsworth School Department students are expected to be groomed and dressed appropriately for any Ellsworth School Department sponsored activity. The activity director/coach will determine what is to be appropriate for each function.

H. Commitment and Responsibility

Any student who is part of Ellsworth School Department CCA must recognize his/her commitment and responsibility to that program. Students should, by some method, notify the activity director/coach by the end of the school day if he/she will be late or absent. More than one unexcused absence from the program's activities will result in immediate dismissal from the activity. Generally, a student who is injured is still expected to attend all practices, performances and/or games. Exceptions may be made by the activity director/coach.

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I. Change of Program

No participant may move from one CCA to another once it has been in progress for two weeks, except under unusual and necessary circumstances. This determination will be made by the BA. Anyone dismissed from CCA for disciplinary reasons will not be allowed to participate in another CCA during that season.

In the case of a CCA which does not involve a specified season, a determination will be made by the BA. If an advisor is approached by a student requesting to change activities during the season, he/she is to notify the BA as soon as feasible.

J. Outside Teams

Students may participate in non-ELLSWORTH SCHOOL DEPARTMENT programs/activities during the regular season, provided that these activities do not interfere with their school program, which must always take priority.

K. School Attendance

Participants in any CCA are expected to arrive on time and attend a full day of school in order to participate in a CCA's event. If the student is absent from school due to an excused, planned absence (doctor appointment, funeral, etc.), it is that student's responsibility to notify the main office and the respective activity director/coach **in advance** of the planned absence. Failure to do so may result in exclusion from involvement in any CCA that day. (Hair appointments, shopping excursions and babysitting are not excused absences!)

Students who are absent due to illness or who must be dismissed from school due to illness may not participate in any CCA that day. Any exceptions will be approved only by the BA.

L. Possession or Use of Tobacco, Alcohol or Drugs:

Refer to Policies ADC – Tobacco Use and Possession, JICH – Drug and Alcohol Use by Students, and JJIE Substance Use/Abuse by Students Participating in CCA.

Cross References: ADC – Tobacco Use and Possession
 EEAG – Student Transportation in Private Vehicles
 IHBGA – Home School Instruction – Participation in School Programs
 JEA – Compulsory Attendance
 JICH – Drug and Alcohol Use by Students
 JJIE – Substance Use/Abuse by Students Participating in CCA
 JKD – Suspension of Students

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