

## **CITIZENSHIP STANDARDS FOR ELIGIBILITY**

Student activities in the Springfield Public Schools provide a program for students to pursue special interests in addition to the more formal class activities. Student activities help develop leadership abilities, promote school spirit and loyalty, establish habits of good citizenship, and provide opportunities to learn to work as a part of a group. Although student activities are important for the all-around development for students they must necessarily be of secondary importance. Regular classroom work must come first.

The Springfield Public Schools Activity Program has traditionally been represented by excellent students who are outstanding citizens. Only a few students make errors in judgment which makes necessary a review of their citizenship.

The MSHSAA Official Handbook contains the following statement:

By-Law 212.0

Students who represent a school in interscholastic activities must be creditable citizens and judged so by the proper school authority certifying a list of students for competition. Those students whose character or conduct is such as to reflect discredit upon themselves or their schools are not considered "creditable citizens."

Conduct shall be satisfactory in accord with the standards of good discipline.

A student should not be considered eligible while under suspension. The student who is expelled or who withdraws from school because of disciplinary measures shall not be considered eligible for 365 days from the date of expulsion or withdrawal.

The following citizenship standards for eligibility have been approved by the Board of Education as school policy for the Springfield Public Schools and are applicable to any student who represents their school.

### **CITIZENSHIP STANDARDS FOR PARTICIPATION IN STUDENT ACTIVITIES PROGRAM, POLICY JGF**

Participation in student activities is a privilege and not a right. Creditable citizenship shall be one of the criteria for participation in school activities. Creditable citizenship includes such things as regular and punctual attendance and a quality of conduct which promotes the best interests of school. Therefore, students shall exhibit standards of behavior which will bring credit to the student, the activities, the school and the community.

The Board insists that the student behavior shall be in compliance with School Board policy, Student/Parent Handbook Discipline Code and Regulations and with public laws. Repeated referrals of a student to the office of assistant principal or to the principal, (or any other person having general responsibility for discipline in the school) for misbehavior may be sufficient reason to declare a student ineligible. A single serious breach of good conduct, either in or out of school may also be sufficient cause for declaring a student ineligible to participate in a school activity. Behavior not in compliance may result in suspension or expulsion from all extracurricular activities. While it is not possible to cite every example of behavior that violates policies, regulations, or public laws, there are certain behaviors that are more frequently a problem for school systems than others and will be addressed herein, as follows:

1. A minimum fourteen (14) calendar day suspension from participation in the activities program will be assessed for a violation of district discipline standards which result in an out-of-school suspension; and/or for a serious breach of good conduct away from school which is verified to the satisfaction of the Administration;
2. A minimum twenty-eight (28) calendar day suspension from participation in the activities program will be assessed for a violation of the of the Student Alcohol/Drug Abuse Policy, JFCH, and/or for conduct similar to that prohibited in Policy JFCH that occurs away from school and results in a summons being issued to the student, or charges being filed in court against the student or conduct which is verified to the satisfaction of the Administration.

A second violation of the citizenship standard will result in expulsion from the activities program for the remainder of the school year.

The board will monitor the district's extracurricular activities program, through the authority it extends to the Superintendent and principals, to authorize and administer it in keeping with this policy and Board-approved regulations.

Adopted June 24, 1992; Revised June 19, 2007

Cross Refs: IGDA, Student Organizations

IGDF, Student Fund Raising Activities

IGDG, Student Activities Funds Activities

IGDJ, Interscholastic Athletics

JB, Equal Education Opportunities

JFA, Student Due Process Rights

JFCG, Tobacco and Tobacco Derivative Use By Students

JFCH, Student Alcohol/Drug Abuse

The School District of Springfield R-XII, Springfield, Missouri

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The School Board also believes that consistent administration of this policy is important from school to school, and from activity to activity, and that appropriate due process procedures must be followed before any student is suspended from participation.

Each individual coach or sponsor, after consulting with the principal or his designee, has the authority to decide whether or not a student will be allowed to practice with a team or school sponsored group while that student's eligibility is suspended.

In addition to these standards, students must abide by the rules and regulations of the Missouri State High School Activities Association. The following rules are included in the rules to the MSHSAA official handbook, and are listed here to help students and parents understand state requirements and to help avoid a misunderstanding which could lead to violations of eligibility standards.

1. A student who misses a class on the date of a contest without being excused by his principal shall not be considered eligible to represent his school on that date.
2. Any student who withdraws from school because of disciplinary measures shall not be eligible for any interscholastic activity for one full year from the date of withdrawal.
- 3a. A student in grades 9-12 must have earned, the preceding semester of attendance, a minimum of 2.50 units of credit or have earned credit in 70% of the maximum allowable classes in which a student can be enrolled in the semester, whichever is greater, and shall currently be enrolled in and regularly attending courses that offer 2.5 units of credit or 70% of the maximum allowable credits which may be earned, whichever is greater, **i.e. CHS, PHS – 2.5 units, GHS, HHS, KHS – 3 units of credit**, or a student must be enrolled in a full course at his or her level in a special education program for the handicapped approved by the Missouri State Department of Education which, though ungraded, enrolls pupils of equivalent age, and that student must have made standard progress for his or her level the preceding semester. A beginning 9th grade student shall have been promoted from the 8th grade to the 9th grade for first semester eligibility. A student must be making satisfactory progress towards graduation as determined by local school policies. A student who is dually enrolled in college and high school classes but who does not receive high school credit on his/her high school transcript for the college work, may have college hours earned during a regular semester count up to a maximum of 1 unit of credit toward determining high school eligibility as follows. 1/2 unit of high school credit for a 3 credit hour class: 1 unit of high school credit for a 5 hour college credit class.
- 3b. Effective July of 2009, a student in grade 9-12 must have earned, the preceding semester of attendance, a minimum of 3.0 units of credit or 80% of the maximum allowable classes in which a student can be enrolled in the semester, whichever is greater, and shall currently be enrolled in and regularly attending courses that offer 3.0 units of credit or 80% of the maximum allowable credits which may be earned, whichever is greater, i.e. CHS, PHS – 3.0 units of credit, GHS, KHS, HHS – 3.5 units of credit. **Students will need to adhere to this by-law change in the spring of 2009 for eligibility in the 2009-10 school year.**
4. A beginning ninth grade student shall have been promoted from the eighth grade to the ninth grade for first semester eligibility.
- 5a. A senior high school student may be eligible at the public or nonpublic school located in the district in which the student's parents reside. In the case of a public school district with multiple high schools, a student may be eligible only at the school in which the parents' address corresponds to the geographical attendance area for that school. If a student attends a school outside of their attendance district the student shall have sub-varsity eligibility for 365 days. If enrollment is continuous in this school for 365 days the student shall be granted unrestricted eligibility.
- 5b. Transfer at Promotion: A student may be eligible immediately at the school of his/her choice upon first entering when:
  1. The student is promoted from the sixth grade to the seventh grade
  2. The student is promoted from eighth grade (or the highest grade of a junior high school administered as a separate unit within a school system), provided the student is eligible in all other respects.
  3. The student completes the highest grade in an elementary school that is not a part of the system supporting high school (K-8), provided the student is eligible in all other respects.
6. Nonschool competition: Before competing in any nonschool competition check with your coach or member of the administration.
- 7a. The school shall require of each student before the student is allowed to practice or participate, a physician's certificate stating that he or she is physically able to participate in athletic contests of his or her school.
- 7b. A student shall not be permitted to practice or compete for a school until it has verification that he or she has basic athletic insurance coverage.

**\* \*Original Citizenship Card may be picked up in the Main Office to be signed by Student and Parent\* \***