

Burleson Independent School District

Extracurricular Code of Conduct

1. Why do we have extracurricular activities and why is it important to participate?

Extracurricular activities are among our customer/stakeholder requirements. Our school-sponsored extracurricular activities and organizations are meant to serve as avenues for leadership development or practice in using skills, attitudes, and knowledge that will help students prepare for post-secondary experience. These programs assist in the attainment of competencies outlined in our BISD Graduate Profile.

Participation in extracurricular activities and extracurricular organizations, including interscholastic athletics, is a privilege, not a right. Since extracurricular activities are optional, those who choose to participate will be held to higher standards of behavior and performance in and out of school. In addition to obeying rules set forth in the BISD Student Code of Conduct, all students in grades 6 through 12 participating in BISD extracurricular activities will be required to comply with the following guidelines and disciplinary regulations. The establishment of a uniform extracurricular handbook reflects the District's concern for the safety, well-being, and conduct of its students participating in all extracurricular activities/organizations and athletics. Be advised that BISD policies and procedures can change at any time. In the event of a conflict between a BISD policy and these procedures, the Policy will prevail.

2. What about “no pass, no play”?

The “no pass, no play” rules came in to effect in 1984. These rules are part of the Texas Education Code and Texas Administrative Code and apply to all activities in the school, including extracurricular activities. Although the rules have been modified since then, the effort is to emphasize excellence in academics first, then excellence in other aspects of the educational experience for a student.

3. What is an extracurricular activity?

An extracurricular activity¹ is an activity sponsored by the UIL, an organization sanctioned by Board resolution, or an activity approved by the Principal. The activity is not necessarily directly related to instruction of the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills, but may have an indirect relation to some areas of the curriculum. Extracurricular activities include, but are not limited to: public performances², contests, demonstrations, displays, and club activities. In addition, an extracurricular activity is subject to this regulation if any one of the following criteria applies:

1. The activity is competitive.
2. The activity is held in conjunction with another activity that is considered extracurricular.

3. The activity is held on campus, except in a case in which adequate facilities do not exist on campus.
4. The general public is invited.
5. An admission is charged.

¹ See BISD Board Policy FM Legal

² *Notice: A student ineligible to participate in an extracurricular activity, but who is enrolled in a state-approved course that requires demonstration of the mastery of the essential knowledge and skills in a public performance, may participate in the performance only if the general public is invited to the performance and the requirement for student participation in public is stated in the essential knowledge and skills of the course.

4. What is the role and responsibility of the BISD extracurricular staff?

“Teacher,” as used in this handbook, includes coaches, activity/organization sponsors, directors, and other District staff who are responsible for overseeing an extracurricular activity/organization. These individuals must be District employees. In general, the role and responsibilities of the teachers can be organized in three components:

Program Management

- Maintain all financial accounts and files in the principal’s office in accordance with Board Policy CFD
- Develop an annual budget detailing revenue and expenditures
- Obtain prior approval from the principal before scheduling activities or placing an activity on the school calendar
- Place on file with the principal a report (bylaws) describing the membership and officer requirements of the organization
- Provide and regularly update a list of students participating in the activity/organization to the campus principal
- Make semester schedules for performances, games, practices, competitions, activities, etc.
- Give announcements to administration
- Communicate with the campus principal and other appropriate staff regarding the scheduling of activities
- Select any uniforms, other apparel for activities and/or practices, and communicate this information to students and parents
- Ensure that equipment is maintained as directed
- Organize and supervise fundraising activities in cooperation with appropriate district officials and properly account for such funds in a timely manner
- Ensure compliance with state and federal laws including, but not limited to, copyright laws and federal student confidentiality laws

Relationship Management

- Inform all students and parents of relevant guidelines, schedules, upcoming events, etc.

- Enforce disciplinary guidelines set forth in BISD Student Code of Conduct and this Extracurricular Handbook, as well as any rules specific to the activity or organization³
- Monitor students' compliance with grade and attendance rules
- Develop by-laws, guidelines, or a constitution for approval by the principal
- Prepare and communicate selection procedures to students well in advance of the selection process
- Keep accurate records of activities, including selection process documentation
- Model appropriate behavior towards students and parents
- Attempt to avoid scheduling conflicts with other extracurricular activities

Student Skill Development

- Exhibit good judgment and sensitivity to community and district standards of propriety when planning activities and/or selecting performance material
- Supervise practices and performances
- Monitor all practices and activities to ensure compliance with all District policies, regulations, and procedures as well as any relevant UIL regulations

³When feasible, teachers should consult with the principal prior to taking such action, and any such action is always subject to review in accordance with the three-step process provided in BISD Board Policy FNG (Local)

5. What is the role and responsibility of the student?

As representatives of BISD, students in grades 6 through 12 who participate in extracurricular activities are expected to demonstrate exemplary behavior and dedication, whether at school or away. Students are responsible for their attitude, skill development, and improving their personal knowledge of the activity.

6. What are the higher standards?

In addition to obeying rules set forth in the BISD Student Code of Conduct, the particular extracurricular activity's constitution, handbook, rule book, and/or regulations, if any, or rules otherwise communicated to the student by the activity's coach or teacher. A student in grades 6 through 12 participating in any BISD extracurricular activity shall comply with the expectations of conduct during school time and during personal time (all the time).

General Expectations

- Obtain a quality education as the primary reason for attending school
- Be present and give your attention to the activity
- Show respect
- Develop and show school pride
- Compete intensely coupled with good sportsmanship and courteous behavior
- Maintain a positive attitude and positive leadership

- Commit to personal continuous improvement and demonstrate teamwork which improves the ability and capacity of the team to accomplish the goals
- Do no harm to yourself – such as the use of tobacco or health supplements

Before a student is suspended or removed from participation in an extracurricular activity, and before any other consequence is imposed as provided in this handbook, the alleged infraction will be documented and a reasonable investigation of the allegation shall occur. Significant weight will be given to the testimony of a school employee witness to the infraction. The principal or designee shall then schedule a conference with the student and the student’s parent to explain the reasons for which the action is being taken and to offer the student an opportunity to discuss the matter. The outcome or decision from the conference may be appealed through the procedures set forth in BISD Board Policy FNG (Local).

Consequences

- Parent and student conference
- Suspension / removal (loss of the privilege to participate in the extracurricular activity)
- Extra physical activity requirements
- Behavioral improvement plan or probation
- Corporal punishment – special district and campus rules apply

7. What about more serious misbehavior?

Level 1

- Using, processing, or being under the influence of marijuana, a controlled substance, a dangerous drug, abusable glue, aerosol paint, or any other mood-changing, mind-altering, or behavior-affecting drug;
- Using, processing, or being under the influence of an alcoholic beverage
- Theft or stealing;
- Engaging in lewd, disruptive, or other offensive conduct that affronts school district standards of propriety.

Consequences

Upon the administration’s determination that a BISD student in grades 6 through 12 participating in a school-sponsored extracurricular activity has violated any one of the four infractions listed above, the student shall lose the privilege of further participation in that activity as provided below:

- 1st Offense in student’s school career: **10** hours of approved community service (physical activity may qualify) and suspension from **20 percent** of active participation in any/all BISD extracurricular activities. If the offense occurs when the student is not actively participating, the suspension shall apply beginning with the next period of participation following the offense. If the student is involved in

more than one activity, the suspension shall apply to all activities concurrently. The student shall not serve more than one 20 percent suspension for the first offense. Tryouts for any extracurricular activity are not affected by this consequence.

- 2nd Offense in student's school career: **20** hours of approved community service (physical activity may qualify) and suspension from **40 percent** of active participation in any/all BISD extracurricular activity/activities. If the offense occurs when the student is not actively participating, the suspension shall apply beginning with the next period of participation following the offense. If the student is involved in more than one activity, the suspension shall apply to all activities concurrently. The student shall not serve more than one 40 percent suspension for the second offense.
- 3rd Offense in student's school career: the student shall be suspended from further competition for one calendar year.
- 4th Offense in student's school career: the student shall be permanently removed from further participation in all extracurricular activities for the remainder of his/her school career.

Our primary goal is not the punishment, but for the student to get help changing their behavior, as appropriate. A student or parent may appeal the student's loss of extracurricular privileges through BISD Board Policy FNG (Local).

Level 2

A student in grades 6 through 12 shall lose the privilege of participation in extracurricular activities during any period of deferred adjudication, probation, while under indictment for a felony, or while awaiting a final determination of guilt or innocence in connection with either a felony or any offense punishable as a Class A Misdemeanor or above, whether the felony or offense was committed on or off campus.

Selling or delivering marijuana, alcohol, a controlled substance, a dangerous drug, abusable glue, aerosol paint, or any other mood-changing, mind altering, or behavior-affecting drug is strictly prohibited and will result in a student's elimination from further participation in all extracurricular activities for:

- 1st Offense, one calendar year (This is measured from the date the offense occurred)
- 2nd Offense, for the remainder of the student's school career

8. What about dress and grooming standards?

Students who participate in extracurricular activities shall comply with the District's policy on student dress and grooming as well as the Teacher's specific requirements for the activity.

9. What are the expectations regarding attendance?

Students engaged in extracurricular activities are expected to participate in all practices, performances, competitions, and other events identified by the Teacher. Teachers will identify times for required practices, performances, competitions, etc.

Under current rules, academically ineligible students may practice or rehearse with other students, but may not participate in a competition or other public performance. A student ineligible to participate in an extracurricular activity/organization, but who is enrolled in a state-approved course that requires demonstration of the mastery of the essential knowledge and skills in a public performance, may participate in the performance only if the general public is invited to the performance and the requirement for student participation in public is stated in the essential knowledge and skills of the course.

Students who fail to appear for a scheduled event without a written excuse from the student's parent will be prohibited from participating in the next scheduled activity. Students' absences from extracurricular activities shall be excused only for those reasons set forth in the student handbook and in the Board Policy. Excessive unexcused absences may result in suspension or dismissal from the activity/organization. Such decisions shall be made in consultation with the campus principal and are subject to appeal through BISD Board Policy FNG (Local).

Students with injuries will be allowed to attend any practice, performance, or other event relating to the activity/organization and allowed to participate only to the extent authorized by written order of the student's physician.

Students will be excused from participation in any practice or activity if they are observing holy days, including days of travel to or from a site where the student will observe holy days. Excused days for travel shall be limited to not more than one day for travel to the site and one day for travel from the site where the student will observe the religious holy days. Students are responsible for notifying the Teacher of any need to be absent for religious reasons prior to the absence.

Students should make every effort to schedule health care appointments at times that will not interfere with school or activity participation. If a conflict is unavoidable, the student shall inform the Teacher prior to the appointment and provide written documentation upon return to school.

10. What are the expectations related to grades?

A student shall be suspended from participation in any extracurricular activity/organization sponsored or sanctioned by the District or the UIL, after a grade evaluation period in which the student received a grade lower than the equivalent of 70 on a scale of 100 in any academic class or 65 on a scale of 100 for an identified honors or advanced class. A suspension continues for at least three school weeks and is not removed during the school year until the conditions for removing the suspension, as described below, are met, see Board Policy FM Legal.

Until the suspension is removed or the school year ends, the District shall review the grades of a student who has been suspended under these provisions at the end of each three-week period following the suspension.

It is the policy of the Burleson Independent School District not to discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, or disability in admission or access to, or treatment or employment in, its programs and activities as required by Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended, Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended. No provision of an extracurricular behavioral standard shall have the effect of discriminating on the basis of sex, race, disability, religion, or ethnicity.