

**CRANFORD PUBLIC SCHOOLS
CRANFORD, NEW JERSEY**

POLICY: ACADEMIC ELIGIBILITY FOR ATHLETIC AND CO-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Athletic Eligibility

- To be eligible for participation in the high school interscholastic athletic program a student must be enrolled in the High School and meet all eligibility requirements as stated below as well as meet all the eligibility requirements of the Constitution, Bylaws and Rules and Regulations of the NJSIAA except as noted below. Additionally, a student must meet the following conditions to be eligible for participation.
 - A permission slip signed by both the parent/guardian and the student granting permission for participation in each sport must be submitted prior to the start of practice.
 - A physical examination of the student by the school physician must be completed prior to each athletic season.
 - A form from the school nurse to the coach certifying that, based upon the physical examination, the student is eligible for participation.
- To be eligible for interscholastic athletic participation during the fall season of the 10th grade or higher, the student must have passed 27.5 credits during the immediately preceding academic year. Credits earned in the summer session scheduled between the close of the immediately preceding academic year and September 1 shall be counted toward the fulfillment of this requirement for September 1 eligibility.
- To be eligible for interscholastic athletic participation during the spring season during the 9th grade or higher the student must have passed 13.75 credits during the immediately preceding semester. Full year courses shall be equated to one-half of the total credits to be gained for the full year to determine credits passed during the immediately preceding semester.
- This shall not apply to Grade 9 students during the first semester (September 1 to January 31) of their freshman year.
- A student ineligible at the start of a sports season may become eligible during that season, as of February 1, if he/she does meet the requirements above.

Definition of participation:

- Participation is defined to include all practices, scrimmages and interscholastic contests except as noted below.
- A student ineligible as of September 1 for the winter sports season may participate in team practices but not interscholastic scrimmages or contests if he/she has earned at least a C in six courses during the first marking period of the current academic year, such six courses to include those courses presently being taken that are required courses under the Cranford Board of Education Graduation Requirements policy.
- In areas addressed by this policy as well as by the Constitution, Bylaws and Rules and Regulations of the NJSIAA, the more restrictive requirement shall pertain.
- Other eligibility requirements may be found in the Athletic Interscholastic Training Participation Handbook.
- Disabled or classified students, as defined by the New Jersey State Department of Education, shall be held to the same eligibility requirements as non-disabled or non-classified students.

Co-Curricular Eligibility

- Cheerleaders
 - For purposes of eligibility, varsity and junior varsity cheerleaders shall be considered student athletes and held to the requirements of Section I of this policy.
- Fall play and Spring musical production
 - Except as noted in 4. below, in order to audition for a part in the Fall play or the Spring musical the student in the 10th grade or above must have passed 27.5 credits during the immediately preceding academic year. Credits earned in the summer session scheduled between the close of

- the immediately preceding academic year and September 1 shall be counted toward the fulfillment of this requirement.
- Once deemed eligible to audition and if selected for a part, the student remains eligible relative to academic requirements through the last performance of the production.
 - This eligibility requirement pertains to cast members, student directors, and all other students involved in the production.
 - A student ineligible as of September 1 to audition for the Spring musical may audition if he/she has earned at least a C in six courses during the first marking period of the current academic year, such six courses to include those courses presently being taken that are required courses under the Cranford Board of Education Graduation Requirements policy.
- Student Council Officers and Class Officers for Grades 10,11, and 12.
 - In order to be eligible to run for student council officer or class officer for grades 10, 11, and 12 the student must have passed the equivalent of 13.75 credits during the immediately preceding semester. Full year courses shall be equated to one-half of the total credits to be gained for the full year to determine credits passed during the immediately preceding semester.
 - A student eligible at the time of election shall be deemed to be eligible relative to academic requirements for the term of the office to which he/she is elected.
 - Other Co-curricula Activities for Grades 10, 11, and 12
 - In order to be eligible for participation in other co-curricula activities for Grades 10, 11, and 12 the student must have passed the equivalent of 13.75 credits during the immediately preceding semester. Full year courses shall be equated to one-half of the total credits to be gained for the full year to determine credits passed during the immediately preceding semester.
 - A student eligible at the time of acceptance into other co-curricula activities shall be deemed eligible relative to academic requirements for the term of the co-curricula activity to which he/she has been accepted.
 - Other Co-curricula eligibility requirements may be found in the Co-Curricular Activity Program Handbook.

Appeal Procedure

- A student, through his/her parent/guardian and/or himself or herself may appeal a decision denying athletic eligibility. This appeal shall be considered based upon the section and paragraph cited in the denial of eligibility. All appeals shall be directed to the High School Principal.
- An appeal of a decision based upon more restrictive requirements than those imposed by the Constitution, Bylaws and Rules and Regulations of NJSIAA shall be decided by the principal of the high school.
- All other appeals must follow the Constitution, Bylaws and Rules and Regulations of NJSIAA.
- A student, through his/her parent/guardian and/or himself or herself may appeal a decision denying co-curricular eligibility. All such appeals shall be to the principal of the high school.

Legal References:

<u>N.J.S.A.</u> 10:5-1 <u>et seq.</u>	Law Against Discrimination
<u>N.J.S.A.</u> 18A:11-3	Voluntary associations regulating conduct of student activities; membership; rules and regulations; appeals
<u>N.J.S.A.</u> 18A:19-14	Funds derived from pupil activities
<u>N.J.S.A.</u> 18A:35-20	Participation in courses in which verbalization nonessential to understanding of subject matter; location of and children in bilingual programs
<u>N.J.S.A.</u> 18A:42-5, -6	Certain student organizations declared harmful ...
<u>N.J.S.A.</u> 34:13A-1 <u>et seq.</u>	New Jersey Employer-Employee Relations Act
<u>N.J.A.C.</u> 6:3-8.1 <u>et seq.</u>	Athletics Procedures
<u>N.J.A.C.</u> 6:8-4.1	Review of mandated programs and services
<u>N.J.A.C.</u> 6:11-3.24	Athletics personnel
<u>N.J.A.C.</u> 6A:7-1.1 <u>et seq.</u>	Managing for Equality and Equity in Education
<u>N.J.A.C.</u> 6A:8-3.2	Career awareness and exploration
<u>N.J.A.C.</u> 6A:16-2.2	Required student medical examinations
<u>N.J.A.C.</u> 6A:30-1.1 <u>et seq.</u>	Evaluation of the Performance of School Districts
20 <u>U.S.C.A.</u> 4071-4074	- Equal Access Act
20 <u>U.S.C.A.</u> 1681 <u>et seq.</u>	- Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972
<u>Krupp v. Bd. of Ed. of Union County Reg. H.S. Dist. #1</u> , 278 <u>N.J. Super.</u> 31	

(App. Div. 1994) cert. den. 140 N.J. 277 (1994)
Good News Club v. Milford Central School, 121 U.S. 2093 (2001)
NJSIAA Constitution, Bylaws, Rules and Regulations
Manual for the Evaluation of Local School Districts (September 2002)

Possible

Cross References:

1210	Community organizations
1320	Participation in out of school community activities
*1322	Contests for pupils
*2224	Nondiscrimination/affirmative action
*3453	School activity funds
4143	Extra pay for extra work
*5113	Absences and excuses
*5126	Awards for achievement
*5131	Conduct/discipline
*5136	Fund-raising activities
5143	Insurance
*5145.4	Equal educational opportunity
*6010	Goals and objectives
*6142	Subject fields
6142.5	Travel and exchange programs
*6142.12	Career education
*6145.1/6145.2	Intramural competition; interscholastic competition
6145.4	Public performances and exhibitions
6145.5	Student organizations
6145.7	Social events/meetings
*6146	Graduation requirements
*6153	Field trips

Approved: January 21, 1985
Revised: August 21, 1989
Revised: December 13, 1999
Revised: March 27, 2006