

NIXA R-II SCHOOLS CITIZENSHIP STANDARDS FOR ELIGIBILITY

Student activities in the Nixa Public Schools provide a program for students to pursue special interests in addition to 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 and work as part of a group. Although student activities are important for the all-round development of students they must necessarily be of secondary importance. Regular classroom work must come first.

Credible citizenship shall be one of the criteria for participation in school activities. Credible citizenship includes such things as regular and punctual attendance and a quality of conduct, which promotes the best interests of the school. Credible citizenship is expected both within and outside the regular school day.

Repeated referrals of a student to the office 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 be sufficient cause for declaring a student ineligible to participate in a school activity.

The following citizenship standards for eligibility have been approved as school policy for Nixa Schools and are applicable to any student who represents Nixa Schools.

1. Participation in student activities is a privilege and not a right; therefore, the School Board believes that students must adhere to standards of behavior, which will bring credit to the individual student, the particular activity, the school, and the community.
2. The School Board insists that student behavior be in compliance with School Board policy, with the student handbook regulations, and with public laws. Behavior not in compliance may result in suspension or expulsion from all extra-curricular activities. While it is not possible to cite every example of behavior that violates policies, regulations, and laws, there are certain behaviors that are more frequently a problem for school systems than others and will be addressed therein.

A minimum **fourteen (14) calendar day suspension** from the activities program will be assessed if a student is determined to commit a breach of good conduct either in or out of school. A minimum **fourteen (14) calendar day suspension** from the activities program will be assessed for a violation of standards which result in criminal charges being filed in court. A minimum **fourteen (14) calendar day suspension** from the activities program will result from any student conduct that results in **In-School-Suspension (ISS)** or **Out-of-School-Suspension (OSS)**.

A minimum **twenty-eight (28) calendar day suspension** from the activities shall be assessed for use, possession or distribution of alcohol and or illegal drugs including all controlled substances, counterfeit drugs, kiddie dope, and other substances purported to be drugs. Criminal charges filed or tickets issued for any drug or alcohol related incidents will also be subject to a minimum **twenty-eight (28) calendar day suspension**. During

the suspension from the activities program, the student will be expected to practice, but will **NOT** be permitted to participate in games or performances. A second violation of the citizenship standard involving drugs or alcohol will result in suspension from the activities program for **ninety (90) calendar days**. A third violation will result in expulsion from the activities program for the remainder of the student's enrollment at Nixa High School.

3. 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 procedures must be followed before any student is suspended from participation. Any request for an appeal to a decision shall be made in writing to the Superintendent of Schools with **three (3) days**. The Superintendent shall have the authority to stay any suspension until a final decision may be reached by the Board of Education.

In addition to these standards, students must abide by the rules and regulations of the Missouri High School Activities Association (MSHSAA). Each student is responsible to notify the school of any and all situations that would affect his/her eligibility under the standards outlined in this Citizenship Policy. If the student does not notify the school of the situation prior to the school's discovery, then the student shall be ineligible for up to 365 days from discovery, pending review by the MSHSAA Board of Directors.

The following rules are included in the MSHSAA official handbook, and are listed here to help students and parents to understand state requirements, and to help avoid a situation, which could lead to violations of eligibility standards.

1. Per new MSHSAA policy, a student who commits an act for which charges may be or have been filed by law enforcement authorities under any municipal ordinance, misdemeanor or felony statute shall not be eligible until all proceedings with the legal system have been concluded and any penalty (i.e. jail time, fine, court costs, etc.) or special condition of probation (i.e. restitution, community service, counseling, etc.) has been satisfied. If law enforcement authorities determine that charges will not be filed, eligibility will be contingent upon Nixa school policy. Minor moving traffic offenses shall not affect eligibility, unless they involve drugs, alcohol, accidents, or injuries. After a student has completed all court appearances and penalties, and has satisfied all special conditions of probation and remains under general probation only, local school authorities shall determine eligibility.
2. A student who misses class on the date of a contest without being excused by the principal shall not be considered eligible to represent his/her school on that date.
3. Any student who withdraws from school because of disciplinary measures shall not be considered eligible for any interscholastic activity for one full year from the date of withdrawal.
4. To be eligible for the 2008-09 activity/athletic season, a student in grades 9-12 must be currently enrolled in courses that offer a total of two-and-one-half (2½) units of credit, and he/she must have earned two-and-one-half (2½) units of credit in courses that met the preceding semester. To be eligible for the 2009-10 activity/athletic season, this requirement is increased to three (3.0) credits previously earned and currently enrolled.

5. A beginning ninth grade (9th) student that has been promoted from the 8th grade to the 9th grade shall be granted eligibility for his/her first semester irregardless of the two-and-one-half (2½) units of credit rule referring to the previous semester.
6. A junior or senior high school student may be eligible in a public school only in the district in which his parents, legally established guardian, or the person with whom he/she has been living for one calendar year, and is designated as the school for him/her to attend by the Board of Education.
7. Non-school competition: Before competing in **ANY** non-school competition, check with your 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/she is physically able to participate in athletic contests of his/her school.
- 7b. A student shall not be permitted to practice or compete for a school until the school has verification that he/she has basic athletic insurance coverage.

Please sign and return the attached form to your coach or activity sponsor. No student shall be allowed to participate in any interscholastic activity or school-related activity until this form is signed and on file in the principal's office.

I acknowledge that the information contained in the Nixa R-II Citizenship Standards Handout has been made available to me. I understand that my participation in all activities sponsored by the Nixa R-II School District is subject to the guidelines of this handout.

PRINTED Student LEGAL Name

 Grade

 Sport/Activity

LEGAL Signature of Student

 Date

 Signature of Parent/Guardian

 Date