

ELIGIBILITY POLICY

A student wishing to participate in any school activity (including interscholastic athletics) must meet certain standards in order to be eligible for such participation.

1. Behavior Eligibility

A student on out-of-school suspension on a given day may not return to school for classes or after-school activities on that day. Any student who accumulates 5 days of suspension in one academic year will lose activity privileges for the succeeding twenty-five school days from the day of return to school (or Practice Days in the case of those activities which meet on weekends or other school holiday periods). Where necessary, this loss of participation privileges will be extended into the next academic year. If a student so punished is suspended again within the same school year, he/she will be removed from activity participation for the next 180 school days.

2. Academic Eligibility

A student with 1.50-2.00 quarterly grade point average **must attend Study Center**. (A student below 1.50 is deemed ineligible).

Students receive report cards at the end of each marking period. Parents and teachers share a concern for the academic progress of students and, where report cards indicate difficulty is being encountered, it may be wise to discontinue (or lessen) participation in the activity program. At the end of each reporting period each advisor/coach will review the grades of those students involved in his/her particular activity and contact parents of those who, in the judgment of the advisor/coach would be well advised to devote more time to academic endeavors.

POLICY

A student who does not complete 4 ½ credits by the end of the school year will not be eligible to participate in extracurricular activities (including athletics) during the following school year. Of the required 4 ½ credits, a minimum of 3 credits must be from core courses (i.e. English, Social Studies, Science or Math). Situations involving special education students and/or alternative education students will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis by the Eligibility Committee with a special education and/or alternative education representative.

Students who do not attain a **2.0 quarterly grade point average or receive two F's** will be declared ineligible and prohibited from participating in all extracurricular activities **unless they attend Study Center**.

Each student is expected to be aware of his or her eligibility status at all times. Students who are unsure of their status can check it on a list that is updated regularly and will be available in the Main Office.

Fourth-quarter grade point averages will be used to determine eligibility for the first quarter of the following school year, this includes the transition from Bellport Middle School to Bellport High School. A student who is deemed ineligible due to low grades on a report card, but who wishes to participate in extra-curricular activities, may do so under these conditions:

- a) The student **must** attend the Study Center regularly for the following marking period where he or she will make every effort to improve his or her grade point average. Upon the **second** unexcused Study Center absence, the student will be deemed ineligible to participate in any extra-curricular activities for the remainder of the marking period. (A student who is absent from school for the entire day or is sent home sick by the school nurse will not be expected to attend Study Center on that day and the day will not be counted as a "Study Center absence".)
- b) A contract must be signed by both the student and his or her parent or guardian within five school days after the quarterly ineligibility list is published. The contract will specify a number of days (not to exceed 45, based upon the length of the marking period) of Study Center attendance required to continue participation in extra-curricular activities.
- c) Athletes must maintain a passing grade in Physical Education to remain eligible.
- d) Any student ineligible for two consecutive quarters with a grade point average of 1.50 but less than 2.00, **and/or two F's** may continue in Study Center for the second of those quarters and remain eligible. **The student will meet with, and be evaluated every five weeks by the eligibility committee, based on the (interim) progress report for that quarter. Failure to show academic improvement will result in the student being deemed ineligible until the end of the quarter by the eligibility committee. (Rule remains as criteria is adjusted according to "New Eligibility Standards".)**

- e) Four and one-half credits.
- f) Students must sign in at Study Center every day. They may receive extra help from their teachers or a teacher in the Homework Center (see attached.) However, the teacher must sign the pass indicating that the student has attended. This pass must be returned to the Study Center before the student leaves for the day. **(Note: This will be omitted if Homework Clinic and Study Center are combined in the Library.)**
- g) Any student forging a teacher's signature on a Study Center card will be deemed ineligible for the remainder of the year, regardless of academic average.

Normally, two 35 minute Study Center sessions will be held each day, one in the morning before the start of the regular school day, and one after the last regular class period. Students may attend either session and will be expected to be prepared to devote the entire 35 minutes to homework or fruitful study. Although a student may attend either the AM or PM Study Center, he or she may attend only one session per day for credit towards fulfillment of the contract. **For an academic field trip a signed permission slip must be submitted to be given a legal absence. Absence for a recreational field trip must be made up.** If a field trip or other pre-planned activity makes it impossible for a student to attend the afternoon session, he or she will be expected to attend the morning session or be charged with a Study Center absence.

If a student is not prepared to work while in Study Center or exhibits disruptive behavior, he/she will be removed and lose credit for that day. If this behavior continues, the student will be dropped from Study Center and be deemed ineligible for the remainder of the quarter. **This will follow the District's Code of Conduct.**

Participation in all activities should be governed by the policy, with the exception of graduation, **Senior Prom, Junior Cotillion** or seasonal concerts which are co-curricular. The eligibility policy should be known to all and consistently enforced. **The District's Code of Conduct will be followed.**

ALTERNATIVE PLACEMENT STUDENTS

Any student in Alternative Placement, i.e. Alternative Education Program, BOCES, Home Tutoring, would make a formal appeal to the Appeals Committee. That appeal must include student's availability to comply with the South Country Athletic Department's practice guidelines, Section XI guidelines and must meet all other provisions of this policy. This provision is for participation in athletics, school plays and dramas. All other activities, i.e. school dances, homecoming, etc., will be determined by the provisions of the eligibility policy.

APPEAL PROCESS

A student who has been declared to be ineligible for any reason and who feels that he/she has grounds for an appeal, may register a formal written appeal with the Eligibility Appeals Committee **within five school days of being deemed ineligible.** The committee will review the case and render a written decision within three school days of the day the written appeal is filed.

A student/athlete who wishes to appeal their eligibility must submit an appeal to his/her Advisor/Coach who will then submit it to the Eligibility **Appeals** Committee.

To be granted an appeal, the student must submit the following:

1. **a formal written appeal**
2. **a testimonial from each teacher discussing**
 - **behavior**
 - **attendance**
 - **additional comments**

The student/athlete is deemed ineligible during the period of review by the Committee.

The Eligibility Appeals Committee is to consist of an Administrator and a Counselor of the specific student requesting review and three standing members from the faculty. The faculty positions are to be for one-year term, renewable. The Eligibility Appeals Committee will consider academic performance, attendance, attitude and behavior.

At all phases of the appeal process, decisions rendered will be in keeping with this policy and the stated rules and regulations governing eligibility.