

WALT WHITMAN HIGH SCHOOL
CO-CURRICULAR & EXTRA-CURRICULAR
ELIGIBILITY CODE

This code establishes the standards by which students shall conduct themselves if they choose to take advantage of the privileges afforded them by participating in activities defined in this code. Students participating in activities shall commit themselves to meet the standards of this code and of the District Code of Conduct at all times and in all places during a calendar year (365 days a year).

1. STATEMENT OF PHILOSOPHY

It is a privilege and an honor to participate in the full range of student activities provided by the South Huntington Union Free School District. These activities and participation in them contribute to each student's education by:

- A. Promoting good citizenship and moral character;
- B. Developing discipline and skills necessary to personal success and wellbeing;
- C. Promoting the image and identity of the school and community

Students who choose to participate in activities will conduct themselves appropriately at all times both on school grounds and away from the school. The responsibility of good conduct is an extension of the responsibility to represent the school and community in an appropriate manner.

2. STUDENT AND PARENT AGREEMENT

Before participation in any activity is permitted, all students who wish to participate in activities and their parent(s) shall receive a copy of this code and shall sign an agreement indicating that they will abide by this code.

3. APPLICABLE ACTIVITY PROGRAMS

This code applies to all co-curricular and extra-curricular activities including, but not limited to:

- A. All interscholastic and intramural athletic activities
- B. All music, drama (public performances), cheerleading, marching band, kick line and similar activities
- C. Student Council and other elected offices
- D. All other school clubs and activities that meet on a regular basis and/or for a specified purpose

All activities designated for "at risk" students and/or students in need of academic services are specifically excluded from this policy.

4. APPLICATION OF ELIGIBILITY

Appropriate student behavior is required by, and has an impact on, all activities in which a student participates. If a student is participating in multiple activities at the same time when a violation occurs, the student loses privileges in all activities under this code.

5. CONDUCT REQUIREMENTS

Students shall:

- A. Abide by this code at all times and in all places.
- B. Abide by any additional specific rules and regulations that the coach/advisor of the activity has established (such as training hours, attendance at practice, etc.). Students will be required to sign a copy of a document as acknowledgement of their agreement to abide by coach or advisor rules prior to participation.

General Standard

Good conduct consists of behavior which reflects the generally accepted social and moral requirements of the community, is legal, and at all times reflects respect for and sensitivity to other persons, and respect for their rights, property and dignity. Violations of this general standard and violations of the District Code of Conduct, the Athletic Code of Conduct, and/or the policies of NYSPHSAA Section 11 are subject to penalties.

6. VIOLATIONS AND PENALTIES

The following terms and definitions will be used regarding the interpretation of this code:

- Probation: The student will be permitted to participate in the total activity but will be subject to review.
- Ineligible: The student will be excluded from all contests, performances, and competitions for a period of time, but is entitled to attend and participate in practices and meetings.
- Disqualified: The student will lose the right to participate in all co- and extra-curricular activities during the period imposed.
- Eligibility Committee: Committee of high school faculty and the principal's designee assigned to review attendance, academics and discipline, with the tasks of investigating all reported violation of the Eligibility Code for validity and rendering decisions based on their findings.
- Season: The period of time for which the activity takes place. For an interscholastic sport, that period shall be from the first day of practice until the final official competition of the sport. For non-

sports activities, that period shall be from the first meeting until the final or culminating activity is completed. This may mean that some activities have a season extending through the entire school year.

Weekly Eligibility Reports: Weekly reports must be completed by every student participating in a sport or other co-curricular activity, regardless of eligibility status and/or grades in class.

Violations of this code shall fall into three (3) areas:

A. School and Class Attendance

Violations of the school and class attendance policy shall be subject to the Walt Whitman High School Code of Conduct and carry with them the appropriate penalty as a discipline matter.

All students who are scheduled to participate in an activity on any day that school is in session must attend within the first ten (10) minutes of period one (1) on the day of the activity and may not sign out of school prior to the end of the school day unless permission to participate has been granted by the school principal. In the event of extenuating circumstances, an explanation in writing accompanied by supporting documentation, if available, shall be required in order for the principal to grant such permission.

The decision of the principal regarding extenuating circumstances shall be final and not subject to appeal.

B. Discipline

Students suspended for a violation of the Code of Conduct either in school or out of school, shall not participate in any co-curricular or extra-curricular activity for the duration of the suspension.

Once the determination is made that a student has violated the Code of Conduct based on a disciplinary action, a school administrator or Eligibility Committee shall make a determination of the appropriate penalty. The student and his/her parent(s) shall be verbally informed within twenty-four (24) hours, followed by written notice, of this decision (the nature of the violation and the determination of the penalty) by mailing the same to the student's residence within two (2) school days of the determination. In lieu of mailing, written notice may also be personally given to the parent/guardian or student.

C. Academic Standing

Determination of Eligibility

- a. Academic eligibility for fall sports season shall be determined by the fourth quarter report card issued the previous June, the in-progress grades during the midpoint of the first quarter and/or the first quarter report card issued in November.

Students with two (2) or more failures on the fourth quarter report card will be placed on the five (5) week probationary period at the beginning of the fall semester.

Student earning passing marks during the summer for the failed course(s) will not be subject to the probationary period in the fall.

- b. Academic eligibility for the winter sports season shall be determined by the in-progress grades during the midpoint of the first quarter, the first quarter report card issued in November, the in-progress grades during the midpoint of the second quarter, and/or the second quarter report card issued in February.
- c. Academic eligibility for the spring sports season shall be determined by the second quarter report card issued in February, the in-progress grades during the third quarter, the third quarter report card issued in April, and/or the in-progress grades during the fourth quarter.
- d. The following criteria must be met for eligibility:
 - i. Sophomores must have earned a minimum of 5 credits during the freshman year, including $\frac{1}{2}$ credit of physical education per year.
 - ii. Juniors must have earned a minimum of 10 credits by the end of their sophomore year, including $\frac{1}{2}$ credit of physical education per year.
 - iii. Seniors must have earned 15 credits by the end of their junior year and must be registered for the minimum number of credits required for graduation, including $\frac{1}{2}$ credit of physical education per year.
- e. Students failing two (2) or more subjects as noted during in-progress grades at the midpoint of a quarter or a report card will be placed on academic probation.

- i. Once the determination is made that a student has violated this code based on academic standing, a student placed on academic probation will be subject to a five (5) week probationary period during which the student will remain eligible to participate in co-curricular activities. An Academic Support Plan shall be developed through the Guidance Department. Notification will be sent home to parents of students placed on academic probation within five (5) school days of the issuance of the distribution of either the applicable in-progress grade at the midpoint of the quarter or report card.
- ii. Academic Support Plan shall consist of:
 - a. Regular attendance and participation in extra help sessions

- b. Regular attendance and participation in before and/or after school tutoring/mentoring
- c. Guidance support
- d. Weekly Eligibility Reports (WEPs) for each subject that include:
 - i. Weekly class attendance
 - ii. Weekly academic average
 - iii. Quarterly academic average to date
 - iv. Homework assignments given/completed
 - v. Teacher comments on weekly performance
 - vi. Extra help/mentoring/tutoring attendance and participation
- f. Following the five (5) week probationary period, if a student continues to fail any two (2) or more subjects as indicated on the in-progress grades at the midpoint of the quarter, the quarterly report card, or the Weekly Eligibility Reports, he/she will become ineligible to participate in any contest or performance involving the co-curricular activity, but may continue to attend and participate in regular practices and meetings. Notification will be sent home to parents of students found to be ineligible within five (5) school days of the determination by the Eligibility Committee.
- g. Following the five (5) week ineligibility period, if a student continues to fail any two (2) or more subjects as indicated on the in-progress grades at the midpoint of the quarter, the quarterly report card, or the Weekly Eligibility Reports, he/she will be disqualified from all activities. Notification will be sent home to parents of students found to be disqualified within five (5) school days of the determination by the Eligibility Committee. Disqualification shall continue so long as a student is failing two (2) or more subjects as indicated on the quarterly progress report, the quarterly report card, or the Weekly Eligibility Reports.

7. RIGHT TO DUE PROCESS AND APPEAL

The decision of the Eligibility Committee regarding a violation of this code other than a coach's supplementary rules may be appealed to the principal. The appeal to the principal shall be in writing and delivered to the principal or the principal's secretary within three (3) school days of receipt of the Eligibility Committee's written decision.

Grounds for appeal shall be:

- An error in the computation of the student's grade(s)
- Additional academic information not available to the Eligibility Committee when it rendered its decision
- Additional discipline information not available to the administration and/or Eligibility Committee when a decision was initially rendered
- Failure by the district to comply with the various time limits established by the code

- Failure by the district to comply with the Academic Support Plan provisions

The following are not grounds for appeal:

- Disagreement with the code on philosophical grounds
- Disagreement with the eligibility decision based on the severity of the penalty imposed

The written appeal to the principal shall specify the ground(s) for the appeal and must include all supporting information, facts and documentation. The parents and student shall have the opportunity to meet with the principal prior to a decision on the appeal being made. However, the time limit for the principal's written decision shall not be affected by the meeting, or lack thereof, with the parents and student.

The principal shall provide a written decision to the parents and student postmarked within three (3) school days of receipt of the original written appeal.

The student shall remain ineligible until determination is rendered by the principal.

The parents and student who disagree with the principal's decision will have the right to appeal, in writing, to the superintendent and the Board of Education within five (5) days of notification of the principal's decision. The appeal to the superintendent and the Board of Education shall be in writing only and shall include only the material submitted to the principal and a copy of the principal's decision. The superintendent and the Board of Education shall then consider the appeal in an executive session at the next regularly scheduled Board of Education meeting.

The superintendent and the Board of Education shall provide a written decision to the parents and student postmarked within two (2) school days of the executive session at which the appeal was considered. The decision of the superintendent and the Board of Education shall be final.

The student shall remain ineligible until a determination is rendered by the superintendent and the Board of Education.