

# Hays CISD Extracurricular Code of Conduct

*“Participation in school-sponsored activities is an excellent way for a student to develop talents, receive individual recognition, and build strong friendships with other students; participation in such activities, however, is a privilege, not a right. Eligibility for initial and continuing participation in many of these activities is governed by state law and the rules of the University Interscholastic League (UIL) – a state wide association overseeing inter-district competition. If a student is involved in an academic, athletic, or music activity governed by UIL, the student and parent are expected to know and follow all rules of the UIL organization...Sponsors of student clubs and performing groups such as the band, choir, drill and athletic teams may establish standards of behavior – including consequences for misbehavior – that are stricter than those for the general student population.”*

– Hays CISD Parent Student Handbook

## Preface

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 are representatives of their respective activities, their school and Hays CISD. Students will be held to higher standards of behavior and performance while in and out of school, both during the activity season and out of season. In addition to obeying the behavior standards in the Hays CISD Student Code of Conduct, all students who participate in Hays CISD extracurricular activities are expected to comply with the following guidelines and regulations. It is the responsibility of coaches and sponsors to ensure that students meet the standards set forth in this document, in and out of season, in and out of uniform, on and off campus, in person and on social media, in word and deed.

Hays CISD expects all students, faculty and staff to be responsible digital citizens. More information about Digital Citizenship can be found in the [Hays CISD Parent Student Handbook](#) under *Digital Citizenship*.

District policies and procedures can change at any time. In the event of a conflict between Hays CISD policy and this document, the district policy will prevail. Some violations of the Extracurricular Code of Conduct may also constitute violations of the regular Student Code of Conduct. Where the campus administration determines that such a violation has occurred, the student will be subject to the appropriate consequences under both documents.

## Definitions

### **Extracurricular Activities - Board Policy FM (LEGAL)**

An extracurricular activity is an activity sponsored by the UIL, the Board, or an organization sanctioned by Board resolution. The activity is not necessarily directly related to instruction of the 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 performances (except as described below), contests, demonstrations, displays, and club activities. In addition, students involved in a district activity will be subject to these rules 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 off-campus, except in a case in which adequate facilities do not exist on campus;
4. The general public is invited; or
5. An admission is charged.

### **EXCEPTION — PUBLIC PERFORMANCES**

A student who is 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:

1. The general public is invited; *and*
2. The requirement that the student participate in public is stated in the essential knowledge and skills of the course.
3. A student ineligible to participate in an extracurricular activity, but who is enrolled in a state-approved music course that participates in UIL Concert and Sightreading Evaluation, may perform with the ensemble during the UIL evaluation performance.

**For the purposes of this document, any events that meet the above exception will be designated as co-curricular and this code of conduct will not apply.**

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## Teachers & Coaches

For the purposes of the Hays CISD Extracurricular Code of Conduct only, the term **teacher** and/or **coach** refers to activity or organization sponsors, directors, and other district staff who are responsible for overseeing an extracurricular activity or organization.

## Suspension

For the purpose of Hays CISD Extracurricular Code of Conduct only, **suspension** is defined as removal from competition, or a formal or informal performance, unless the event meets the exception criteria listed above in FM (LEGAL). A student placed on suspension will be expected to continue practicing with the group organization unless otherwise stipulated by the teacher/coach or principal.

## Section 1: General Expectations for Standards of Student Conduct

In order to promote safety and a positive educational experience for all students, the district expects students who participate in extracurricular activities to adhere to seven basic standards of conduct: (1) exercise self-control, self-respect, and self-discipline; (2) demonstrate a positive attitude; (3) respect the rights and feelings of others; (4) respect school property and school officials; (5) support the learning process; (6) adhere to rules, and (7) promote a safe environment.

The Extracurricular Code of Conduct cannot address each and every possible act of student misbehavior. To that end, the district retains discretion to address student misconduct that is inconsistent with these seven standards even if the conduct in question is not specifically included in the Extracurricular Code of Conduct.

## Academic Eligibility

*“UIL participants are eligible to participate in contests during the first six weeks of the school year provided the following standards have been met:*

- *Students beginning in grades nine and below must have been promoted from the previous grade prior to the beginning of the current school year.*
- *Students beginning their second year of high school must have earned five credits, which count toward state high school graduation requirements.*
- *Students beginning their third year of high school either must have earned a total of ten credits which count toward state high school graduation credits or have earned a total of five credits which count toward state high school graduation requirements during the 12 months preceding the first day of the current school year.*
- *Students beginning their fourth year of high school either must have earned a total of fifteen credits which count toward state high school graduation credits or have earned a total of five credits which count toward state high school graduation requirements during the 12 months preceding the first day of the current school year.*
- *A non-enrolled (home schooled) student seeking participation for the first six weeks in accordance with section 33.0832 of the Texas Education Code must demonstrate grade-level academic proficiency on any nationally recognized, norm-referenced assessment instrument, such as the Iowa Test of Basic Skills, Stanford Achievement Test, California Achievement Test, or Comprehensive Test of Basic Skills prior to the first day of school. A non-enrolled student demonstrates the required academic proficiency by achieving a composite, core, or survey score that is within the average or higher than average range of scores, as established by the applicable testing service. For purposes of this subsection, a school district shall accept assessment results administered or reported by a third party.*

### *Exceptions:*

- (a) When a migrant student enrolls for the first time during a school year, all criteria cited above applies. All other students who enroll too late to earn a passing grade for a grading period are ineligible.*
- (b) High school students transferring from out-of-state may be eligible the first six weeks of school if they meet the criteria cited above or school officials are able to determine that they would have been eligible if they had remained in the out-of-state school from which they are transferring.*

*Students who are not in compliance with these provisions may request a hardship appeal of their academic eligibility through the UIL state office. Local school boards may elect to adopt these standards for all activities in order to avoid having different standards for student participants (e.g., football, drill team, cheerleading, and all other extracurricular activities as defined by Commissioner of Education rule [19 TAC Chapter §76]).”*

**-UIL Side by Side**

Students must remain academically eligible for extracurricular activities by maintaining passing grades and acceptable attendance in all classes at every reporting period. 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 performance, may participate in the performance only if the general public is invited to the performance and the requirement for student

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participation in public is stated in the essential knowledge and skills of the course. Also, under state law, and in accordance with Board Policy FM (LEGAL), school districts are allowed to identify advanced courses for exemption from the no pass/no play rule. This exemption is further defined in Hays CISD Administrative Procedure E17.

Unless one of the above exceptions applies, if a student receives one or more failing grades in the first six weeks of the first semester or at the conclusion of a 9-week period, he/she is ineligible to participate in the activity for at least 3 school weeks. At the end of that 3-week suspension, if the student is passing all of their classes, the student will regain eligibility to fully participate in the activity after a 1-week grace period. If not, the suspension shall continue until the next 3-week grading period.

**Attendance:** Students engaged in extracurricular activities are expected to attend and participate in all practices, performances, competitions, and other events identified by the teacher or coach. Teachers and coaches will provide schedules and times for required practices, performances, competitions, etc. Students are expected to make up any work missed while absent. 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.

**Grooming:** Students who participate in extracurricular activities shall comply with the District's policy on student dress and grooming as well as the teacher's/coach's specific dress/grooming requirements for the extracurricular activity.

**Tryouts:** Tryout procedures, requirements, and timelines for various extracurricular activities are determined by the individual teacher/coach in partnership with Hays CISD guidelines. Such tryout information will be made available, in writing or on-line, to students in advance of any tryouts. Upon completion of the tryout process for the activity, the teacher/coach will notify all participants of their membership status. The results of tryouts are final and cannot be appealed.

## **Section 2: Violations and Consequences**

Students who participate in Hays CISD extracurricular activities shall not engage in inappropriate or unlawful behavior, including but not limited to: consumption of alcohol or illegal drugs, fighting, harassment, bullying, sexual misconduct, criminal activity (excluding minor traffic offenses), failure to follow activity rules, unsafe or disruptive behavior, misuse of district property or the property of others, or threats to others. Such misbehavior, whether off-campus, on-campus, or technology-related, may result in removal from the activity.

Students may be disciplined, suspended, or removed from the activity for the above prohibited behavior or any other behavior which the teacher/coach deems improper, including but not limited to unsportsmanlike conduct, classroom disciplinary referrals, failure to cooperate with teachers or others in the activity, insubordination, poor attendance, and/or promotion of alcohol or drug use on a website, or lewd or profane language or images, including language online or by other technology device such as cell phones.

Technology-related communication or conduct (i.e. texting, Facebook, Twitter, SnapChat, Instagram, Tik-Tok, and other digital resources, apps, and sites) of students involved in Hays CISD extracurricular activities may be subject to the disciplinary consequences listed within this document.

Once a violation has occurred, a student's privilege to participate in an activity may be immediately revoked, suspended or otherwise adversely affected, with or without further review, if the teacher/coach or principal determines that the student's participation:

1. Will have an adverse effect on other participants in the program; or
2. Will negatively impact the eligibility of the organization, school or school district; or
3. The student's conduct warrants the revocation or suspension of the student's participation.

**The consequences and actions listed in this document represent minimum consequences that may be administered. Each individual organization or team reserves the right to administer additional sanctions appropriate to the specific activity with approval from the campus principal and appropriate assistant superintendent.**

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## Drugs and Alcohol

If a student who participates in extracurricular activities is found to use, sell, deliver, possess, or be under the influence of any amount of a controlled substance, dangerous or designer drug, synthetic marijuana or cannabis, or alcohol and/or any narcotic drug, hallucinogenic, amphetamine, barbiturate, marijuana, toxicant inhalant, or other intoxicant (as defined by law), excluding his or her own prescribed medications (taken as directed), whether on or off district property, the consequences listed below will apply. This prohibition includes stimulants or analogs, regardless of whether currently scheduled or classified as an illegal drug or federal or state law and regardless of whether the substance is legally sold or marketed as "herbal incense," "potpourri," "bath salts," or "not for human consumption."

All drug and alcohol violations will be treated as listed below unless the teacher/coach and the campus principal agree that the circumstances require imposition of a more stringent consequence. If such violation occurs with less than six weeks remaining in the season, the period of suspension may be extended beyond six weeks or the end of the season, and possibly into the next season, by the teacher/coach with the approval of the principal.

**First Offense:** Conference with the student and parent, suspension from all competitions or performances for a minimum of six weeks, a behavior contract is developed for the student to sign. The student may also have activity-related assignments to complete and may be removed from the program.

**Second Offense:** Conference with the student and parent, suspension from all competition or performances for a minimum of eighteen weeks, a behavior contract is developed for the student to sign. The student may also have activity-related assignments to complete and may be removed from the program.

**Third Offense:** Removal from the program for the remainder of the school year or the remainder of the student's career at Hays CISD.

## Technology Related Misconduct and Offenses

At a minimum, the student who is alleged to have engaged in the conduct will have a conference with the teacher and the student will be expected to cease any inappropriate online activity and/or remove any inappropriate online content. A student may also be suspended or removed from the program where the misconduct demonstrates a failure to comply with the expectations found in the Student Code of Conduct and/or the extracurricular code of conduct.

## Removal from Classroom by Teacher and/or In-School Suspension

At a minimum, the student will have a conference with the teacher if the student receives ISS or is removed from a classroom by district personnel. Excessive assignment to ISS or ongoing disruptive behavior in the classroom will be evaluated by the teacher and may lead to further consequences including dismissal from the program.

## Out-of-School Suspension and/or Disciplinary Alternative Education Program (DAEP)

**First Offense:** Length of the suspension / alternative school assignment if it applies. Conference with the student and parent and a behavior contract shall apply. The student may be removed from the program.

**Second Offense:** Length of the suspension / alternative school assignment if it applies. Conference with the student and parent and a behavior contract shall apply. The student may be removed from the program.

**Third Offense:** Removal from the program for the remainder of the school year or the remainder of the student's career at Hays CISD.

## Expulsion

If the student returns to campus, a conference with the teacher/coach, director, athletic coordinator (as appropriate) and principal is required before a student can continue in extracurricular activities. Depending on the circumstances, an expulsion may mean that the student is removed from the extracurricular activity for the remainder of the school year or the remainder of the student's career at Hays CISD.

## Discipline Transference

Similar to UIL academic eligibility, discipline infractions and consequences occurring in middle school, shall not transfer to high school unless the discipline assignment has not been completed in middle school as assigned by campus administration or the discipline involves a law enforcement felony adjudication process.

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## Parent and Student Acknowledgement

The purpose of the Hays CISD Student Extracurricular Code of Conduct is to maintain the safety and integrity of district extracurricular activities and teams. All student participants and parents are to be aware that the students represent the school district at all times when a student chooses to participate in extracurricular activities. This Code shall be used throughout the school year including the summer and holiday breaks, on and off campus. Any appeals to the decisions made based on this document should be addressed through the District's grievance process, outlined in Board Policy FNG (LOCAL).

I understand and agree to abide by all the provisions of the Hays CISD Student Extracurricular Code of Conduct.

Name of Student (please print): \_\_\_\_\_ Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

I understand and agree to support all the provisions of the Hays CISD Student Extracurricular Code of Conduct.

Parent Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**PLEASE SIGN AND RETAIN THIS COPY FOR YOUR RECORDS.**

The logo for Hays CISD features the word "Hays" in a large, blue, cursive script font. Below it, the letters "CISD" are written in a smaller, blue, sans-serif font.

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Name of Student (please print): \_\_\_\_\_ Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

I understand and agree to support all the provisions of the Hays CISD Student Extracurricular Code of Conduct.

Parent Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**PLEASE SIGN AND RETURN THIS COPY TO YOUR DIRECTOR, COACH OR SPONSOR.**

