

## Ash Grove's Eligibility Standards Contract for Extra-Curricular Activities

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ GRADE \_\_\_\_\_ SCHOOL YEAR \_\_\_\_\_

Student activities in the Ash Grove R-IV School District provide programs and opportunities for students to pursue special interests in addition to the more formal class activities. Student activities help develop leadership abilities, promote school spirit, pride and loyalty, establish habits of good citizenship, and provide opportunities to learn to work as a part of a group. Although student activities are important for the all-around development of students, they must necessarily be of secondary importance. Regular classroom work must come first.

The Ash Grove R-IV School District is committed to providing a healthy and safe learning environment for its students. Abuse of drugs, alcohol, and tobacco disrupts this environment and interferes with the academic and personal development of the student. Standards regarding the use of drugs, alcohol and tobacco must support local, state, and federal laws. Furthermore, policies should reflect and encourage abstinence as an acceptable choice regarding drugs, alcohol and tobacco.

The Ash Grove R-IV School District's role is to assist students with every available resource to help them develop satisfying life-styles to equip them for a better quality of life; nonetheless, it cannot and should not stand in the place of a parent. Ash Grove students, as citizens of this community, of this state, and of the nation, are, like any other person, expected to be aware of and to abide by pertinent laws and school regulations. The Ash Grove R-IV Schools' activity programs have traditionally been represented by excellent students who are outstanding citizens. Only a few students make errors in judgment which makes it necessary to review their conduct.

The Missouri State High School Activities Association (MSHSAA) Official Handbook contains the following statements in by-law 212.0:

Students who represent a school in interscholastic activities must be creditable citizens and judged so by the proper school authority certifying a list of students for competition. Those students whose character or conduct is such as to reflect discredit upon themselves or their school are not considered "creditworthy citizens." Conduct shall be satisfactory in accord with the standards of good discipline. A student shall not be considered eligible while under suspension. The student who is expelled or who withdraws from school because of disciplinary measures shall not be considered eligible for 365 days from the date of expulsion or withdrawal.

Each individual school has the authority to set more restrictive citizenship standards and shall have the authority to judge its students under those standards.

### MSHSAA/Ash Grove Eligibility Standards and Rules:

In order to be eligible to participate in any extra-curricular activity in the Ash Grove R-IV School District, a student must:

1. Exhibit Creditable Citizenship and School Pride:  
Creditworthy citizenship includes a quality of conduct which promotes the best interests of the school. Therefore, students shall exhibit standards of behavior that will bring credit to the student, the activities, the school, and the community. The Ash Grove R-IV School District has a long and proud tradition of excellence in education and community support. Students are encouraged to display school pride and respect for the property, staff and fellow students of this district. Students are encouraged to participate in and/or support extra-curricular activities.
2. Abide by eligibility standards approved by the Ash Grove R-IV School District.

In order to be eligible to participate in any MSHSAA approved activity in the Ash Grove R-IV School District, a student must also:

1. Be enrolled in courses offering at least 2.50 units of credit and have earned 2.50 units of credit or have earned 70% of the maximum allowable credits which may be earned during the previous semester. Using an 11-point scale, a 4.00 or "C-" grade point average (GPA) must be maintained by Ash Grove students. Students will be put on academic probation for one quarter if they do not meet the GPA requirement and will become ineligible to participate if their GPA has not been raised during the probationary period to meet the required GPA.
2. Have entered school within the first 11 days of the current semester.
3. Not have received an award of any kind other than that given by his school for his services as an athlete in the sport in which he is competing.
4. Not have reached his/her 19<sup>th</sup> birthday prior to July 1 of this year. Seventh graders must not have reached their 14<sup>th</sup> birthday, 8<sup>th</sup> graders must not have reached their 15<sup>th</sup> birthday, and 9<sup>th</sup> graders must not have reached their 16<sup>th</sup> birthday (all prior to July 1).
5. Not have competed under an assumed name.
6. Not have transferred from another high school to this one without a corresponding change of residence by his parents/guardians, including all household properties.
7. Not have graduated or received an early release from a four-year school or its equivalent.
8. Be eligible for only eight semesters total and attend the seventh and eighth semesters consecutively.
9. Not have competed at any time as a member of a junior college or a senior college team.
10. Not have competed on an outside team after high school starts.
11. Not have transferred from one high school to another because of being influenced to do so. Students shall not have been recruited in any manner.
12. Not attend for more than two weeks a specialized camp for any one sport.
13. Have obtained and fully completed an MSHSAA participation certificate (Physical Form) if participating in or trying out for athletic competition.
14. Have obtained and show verification of current health insurance if participating in or trying out for athletic competition.

Participation in student activities is a privilege and not a right. A single serious breach of good conduct or creditable citizenship either in or out of school, may be sufficient cause for declaring a student ineligible to participate in a school activity.

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, or public law, there are certain behaviors that are more frequently a problem for school systems than others. Specifically, a 10-school-day suspension from the activities program will be assessed for a Level I violation. A minimum 30-school-day suspension will be assessed for a Level II violation. A minimum one calendar year suspension from the activities program will be assessed for a Level III violation. The administration has the right to determine the level of severity of any violation which is not addressed in this policy.

### LEVEL I

Repeated classroom disruptions  
Truancy or skipping school (1<sup>st</sup> offense)  
Possession/use of tobacco products  
Any offense resulting in 1-5 days OSS  
Fighting  
Taunting/harassment of others  
Excessive tardies – no more than three tardies in any class per quarter  
Careless driving on or around school property  
Unlawful possession of alcohol or knowingly in a group in unlawful possession  
Violation of creditable citizenship guidelines

### LEVEL II

Repeat of any Level I offense  
Use of alcohol  
Assaultive behavior  
Theft or knowingly receive stolen property  
Any offense resulting in 6-10 days OSS

### LEVEL III

Repeat of any Level II offense  
Distribution of alcohol or drugs on school property or while representing school or a school function  
Any offense resulting in more than 10 days OSS

Each individual coach or sponsor, after consulting with the principal, or the principal's designee, has the authority to decide whether or not a student will be allowed to practice with a team or school sponsored group while that student's eligibility is suspended under the provisions of this policy.

#### Confirmation of Violation:

A violation is confirmed by the following:  
A. Admission by the student  
B. Personal observation by a member of the staff or administration  
C. Law Enforcement

#### Self Report Honesty Provision:

In order to encourage students to come forward for help when needed and to encourage students to be honest and truthful citizens, we have added a "one-time" opportunity "Honesty Provision" regarding controlled substances. A student who self-reports a violation to his/her coach or sponsor or school authority on their own volition prior to school knowledge, and who will agree to counseling and rehabilitation and show evidence thereof, may have the consequences reduced up to one-half of the normal suspension time.

These policies and guidelines apply to the following groups and activities: baseball, basketball, cheerleaders, cross country, football, golf, softball, special performance teams, track, volleyball, Art Club, FCA, FFA, FBLA, FCCLA, FTA, Letterman's Club, GALS, Marching Band, Performance Choir, Science Club, Spanish Club, BETA Club, Drama Club, Foreign Language Club, Industrial Technology Club, Young Leaders, History/Academic Team, Speech/Debate, Student Council, or any student/group desiring to represent the school in any capacity.

Adopted by the Ash Grove R-IV Board of Education: September 2003

---

Please sign and return this Eligibility Standards Contract to your coach or activity sponsor. No student will be allowed to participate in any school-sponsored activity until this form is signed and on file in the principal's office. A new form is required each school year and covers any and all activities for the entire school year for which it is signed. Signing this form indicates that you and your parents have read, understand and will abide by the rules and provisions of this contract.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student's Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Parent's Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date