Ohio eSchool Families and Friends Coalition

Charter School Student Participation in Traditional School District Extracurricular Activities

This year a new Ohio law allows for public charter school students to participate in extracurricular activities at local traditional public schools. The change, put in place by House Bill 487, was enacted in 2014 and can be found in the Ohio Revised Code Section 3313.357 (see attached for the exact language).

This change affects students of any public charter school (also called a community school), including eSchools or online schools.* These students are now able to participate in activities, including sports, at the local school district they would attend if they did not choose to attend a public online charter school.

Extracurricular activity is defined in the Ohio Revised Code language below and it does include athletics as long as the student is participating in the school district that they are entitled to attend.

This is all very new for parents and students but also for local school districts and administrative officials like superintendents and principals. We all should work together to make it possible for students to enjoy the opportunities now.

If you or any school district personnel ever have any questions, contact us at 1-866-285-6216 or Info@OhioeSchoolCoalition.org. We will help in whatever way possible.

**Note: True homeschool students (those who school at home but are NOT enrolled in a community school of any kind) are also eligible to participate in district extracurricular activities however the state law section and the legislation that passed to allow this are different than that mentioned here). There can be some confusion because many eSchool families will call themselves homeschool families because even though they are enrolled in a public community or charter school they technically go to school at home. That is why we included this note of clarification.*

Ohio Revised Code 3313.537 Community school student participation in public school activities.

(A) As used in this section, "extracurricular activity" means a pupil activity program that a school or school district operates and is not included in the school district's graded course of study, including an interscholastic extracurricular activity that a school or school district sponsors or participates in and that has participants from more than one school or school district.

(B)

(1) A student who is enrolled in a community school established under Chapter 3314. of the Revised Code or in a science, technology, engineering, and mathematics school established under Chapter 3326. of the Revised Code shall be afforded, by the superintendent of the school district in which the student is entitled to attend school under section 3313.64 or 3313.65 of the Revised Code, the opportunity to participate in that extracurricular activity at the district school to which the student otherwise would be assigned during that school year. If more than one school operated by the school district serves the student's grade level, as determined by the district superintendent based on the student's age and academic performance, the student shall be afforded the opportunity to participate in that extracurricular activity at the school to which the student would be assigned by the superintendent under section 3319.01 of the Revised Code.

(2) The superintendent of any school district may afford any student enrolled in community school or science, technology, engineering, and mathematics school, and who is not entitled to attend school in the district under section 3313.64 or 3313.65 of the Revised Code, the opportunity to participate in an extracurricular activity offered by a school of the district, if both of the following apply:

(a) The school in which the student is enrolled does not offer the extracurricular activity.

(b) The extracurricular activity is not interscholastic athletics or interscholastic contests or competition in music, drama, or forensics.

(C) In order to participate in any extracurricular activity under this section, the student shall be of the appropriate age and grade level, as determined by the superintendent of the district, for the school that offers the extracurricular activity, and shall fulfill the same academic, nonacademic, and financial requirements as any other participant.

(D) No school district board of education shall take any action contrary to the provisions of this section.

(E) No school or school district shall impose additional rules on a student to participate under this section that do not apply to other students participating in the same extracurricular activity. No school or school district shall impose fees for a student to participate under this section that exceed any fees charged to other students participating in the same extracurricular activity.

(F) No school district, interscholastic conference, or organization that regulates interscholastic conferences or events shall require a student who is eligible to participate in extracurricular activities under this section to meet eligibility requirements that conflict with this section.

Amended by 130th General Assembly File No. TBD, HB 487, §1, eff. 9/17/2014.

Amended by 130th General Assembly File No. 25, HB 59, §101.01, eff. 9/29/2013.

Effective Date: 05-27-2005; 2007 HB119 09-29-2007

SOURCE: http://codes.ohio.gov/orc/3313.537