

BENTON COMMUNITY GOOD CONDUCT POLICY

Statement of Philosophy:

The Board of Directors of the Benton Community School District offer a variety of voluntary activities designed to enhance the classroom education of its students. Students who participate in extracurricular activities serve as ambassadors of the school 365 days of the year, both in and out of school. Students who wish to exercise the privilege of participating in extracurricular activities must conduct themselves in accordance with the board policy and must meet the eligibility criteria established by the board, administration and individual activity coaches and sponsors.

Applicable Activity Programs:

The following activities are covered by, but not limited to, the Board's policy and these rules:

1. Athletics
2. Fine Arts
3. Elected offices, including royalty
4. Clubs and organizations
5. Any other school activity where the student represents the school outside the classroom, (i.e. overnight trips, etc.)

Good Conduct Rule:

After a due process proceeding at which the student shall be confronted with the allegation, the basis of the allegation, and given an opportunity to tell the student's side, any student who is found to have violated the school's Good Conduct Rule will be deemed ineligible for a period of time, as set forth below. All applicable activities may have additional standards/consequences that must be reviewed with the student participants and made available upon request to parent(s) or guardian(s) within the first 2 weeks of the season. A student may lose eligibility under the Good Conduct Rule for the following behaviors:

- Possession, use or purchase of tobacco products, regardless of the person's age;
- Possession, use or purchase of alcoholic beverages, including, "near beer."
- Unlawful sale, distribution, or being under the influence of alcohol or drugs;
- Possession, use or purchase of illegal drugs or "look alike" drugs;
- Unauthorized possession, use or purchase of otherwise lawful drugs;
- Engaging in any act that would be grounds for arrest or citation in the criminal or juvenile court system, excluding minor traffic offenses, regardless of whether the student was cited, arrested, convicted or adjudicated for the act(s).

If a student transfers in from another school district and the student has not yet completed a period of ineligibility for a Good Conduct Rule violation in the previous school, the administration will have the discretion to review each case and determine the appropriate ineligibility on a case-by-case basis.

Good Conduct Rule Penalties:

Any Student who, after a hearing before the administration, is found to have violated the Good Conduct Rule, is subject to a loss of eligibility as follows:

--First Offense within the student's high school career: three (3) weeks of ineligibility, may be reduced to two weeks if the student attends an approved (by administration) professional counseling session within the two weeks of ineligibility and provides proof of attendance.

--Second Offense within the student's high school career: six (6) weeks of ineligibility plus proof of attendance at an approved (by administration) professional counseling session within the six weeks of ineligibility.

--Third Offense within the student's high school career: One year of ineligibility plus proof of attendance at an approved (by administration) professional counseling session within the one year of ineligibility.

In all cases the period of ineligibility begins with the first date of competition for the activity the student is involved in. If the student is not currently engaged in an extracurricular activity, or the ineligibility period is not completed during a current activity, the penalty is carried over to the next applicable activity that the student seeks to go out for. If a student completes his or her period of ineligibility during an activity season, the student must finish the entire activity season in order for the ineligibility period to count.

Good Conduct Rule Appeals:

Any Student who is found by the administration to have violated the Good Conduct Rule may appeal this determination to the superintendent by contacting the superintendent within three (3) days of being advised of the violation. The penalty will be in effect pending the superintendent's decision. If the student is still dissatisfied, he or she may appeal to the school board by filing a written appeal within 5 days of being advised of the superintendent's decision. The review by the board will be in closed session unless the student's parent (or the student, if the student is 18) requests an open session. The grounds for appeal to the school board are limited to the following: the student did not violate the Good Conduct Rule; the student was given inadequate due process in the investigation and determination; or the penalty is in violation of the handbook rule or board policy. The penalty will remain in effect pending the outcome of the meeting with the board.

If the school board reverses the decision of the administration, the student shall be immediately eligible and shall have any record of the ineligibility period and violation deleted from the student's record.