

TITLE VI  
INTERSCHOLASTIC COMPETITION

CHAPTER 36  
EXTRACURRICULAR INTERSCHOLASTIC COMPETITION  
[Prior to 9/7/88, see Public Instruction Department[670] Ch 9]

Chapter rescission date pursuant to Iowa Code section 17A.7: 4/10/29

**281—36.1(280) Definitions.**

*“Associate member school”* means a nonaccredited nonpublic school that has been granted associate member status by any corporation, association, or organization registered with the department pursuant to Iowa Code section 280.13, upon approval by the department based upon proof of compliance with:

1. Iowa Code section 279.19B, and rules adopted by the department related to the qualifications of the affected teaching staff, and
2. The student eligibility rules of this chapter.

Associate membership is subject to the requirements, dues, or other obligations established by the organization for which associate membership is sought.

*“Coach”* means an individual, with coaching endorsement or authorization as required by Iowa law, employed by a school district under the provisions of an extracurricular athletic contract or employed by a nonpublic school in a position responsible for an extracurricular athletic activity. “Coach” also includes an individual who instructs, diagnoses, prescribes, evaluates, assists, or directs student learning of an interscholastic athletic endeavor on a voluntary basis on behalf of a school or school district.

*“Compete”* means participating in an interscholastic contest or competition and includes dressing in full team uniform for the interscholastic contest or competition as well as participating in pregame warm-up exercises with team members. “Compete” does not include any managerial, recordkeeping, or other noncompetitor functions performed by a student on behalf of a member or associate member school.

*“Department”* means the Iowa department of education.

*“Dropout”* means a student who quit school because of extenuating circumstances over which the student had no control or who voluntarily withdrew from school. This does not include a student who has been expelled or one who was doing failing work when the student voluntarily dropped from school.

*“Executive board”* means the governing body authorized under a constitution or bylaws to establish policy for an organization registered under this chapter.

*“Executive officer”* means the executive director or secretary of each governing organization.

*“Member school,”* for purposes of this chapter, means a public school or accredited nonpublic school that has been granted such status by any corporation, association, or organization registered with the department pursuant to Iowa Code section 280.13.

*“Parent”* means the natural or adoptive parent having actual bona fide custody of a student.

*“Student”* means a person under 20 years of age enrolled in grades 9 through 12. For purposes of these rules, ninth grade begins with the summer immediately following eighth grade. The rules contained herein apply uniformly to all students. “Student” also includes students in eighth grade who are allowed to participate in an interscholastic athletic contest or competition pursuant to a local policy adopted by the board of directors of a school district, the authorities in charge of a nonpublic school, or the governing board of a charter school. An eighth-grade student who participates pursuant to this policy shall not also participate in the same sports season for an eighth-grade team.

*“Superintendent”* means a superintendent of a local school or a duly authorized representative.

*“Varsity”* means the highest level of competition offered by one school or school district against the highest level of competition offered by an opposing school or school district.

[ARC 7657C, IAB 3/6/24, effective 4/10/24; ARC 0438D, IAB 7/22/26, effective 8/1/26]

**281—36.2(280) Registered organizations.**

**36.2(1)** Organizations registered with the department include the following:

- a. Iowa High School Athletic Association (hereinafter association).

- b. Iowa Girls' High School Athletic Union (hereinafter union).
- c. Iowa High School Music Association (hereinafter music association).
- d. Iowa High School Speech Association (hereinafter speech association).
- e. Unified Iowa High School Activities Federation (hereinafter federation).

**36.2(2)** Organizations identified in paragraphs 36.2(1) "a" and "b" may sponsor interscholastic competitions related to robotics.

[ARC 9807C, IAB 12/10/25, effective 1/14/26]

**281—36.3(280) Filings by organizations.** Each organization will maintain a current file of the following items, available for inspection by the department:

- 36.3(1)** Constitution and bylaws, approved by the state board of education.
- 36.3(2)** Current membership and associate membership lists.
- 36.3(3)** Organization policies.
- 36.3(4)** Minutes of all meetings of organization boards.
- 36.3(5)** Proposed constitution and bylaw amendments or revisions.
- 36.3(6)** Audit reports.
- 36.3(7)** General bulletins.
- 36.3(8)** Other information pertinent to clarifying organization administration.

[ARC 7657C, IAB 3/6/24, effective 4/10/24]

**281—36.4(280) Executive board.**

**36.4(1) *Membership.*** Each organization will have an executive board, containing some representation from school administrators, teachers, and elective school officers; provided, however, that the membership will include the following:

- a. One member who is a member of a school board in Iowa, appointed by the Iowa association of school boards to represent the lay public.
- b. One member who is either a coach, sponsor or director of an activity sponsored by the organization to which the member is elected and who works directly with the students or the program. This member is to be elected by ballot of the member schools, the vote to be cast by the school's designated representative of the organization involved.

**36.4(2) *Organization elections.*** The election procedure for each organization is to be conducted as provided by the organization's constitution, which is to set criteria for protecting the voter's anonymity and ensuring adequate notice of elections. In addition, one representative designated by the department director will be present at the counting of all ballots and will validate election results.

**36.4(3) *Federation membership.*** The federation, in addition to conforming to other requirements in this rule, will have in its membership the executive board of the association, union, music association, speech association, and school administrators of Iowa.

[ARC 7657C, IAB 3/6/24, effective 4/10/24]

**281—36.5(280) Fiscal provisions.**

**36.5(1) *Salary.*** No remuneration, salary, or remittance may be made to any member of an executive board, representative council or advisory committee of an organization for the member's service.

**36.5(2) *Expenses.*** Travel and actual expenses of executive board members, representative council members, advisory committee members, and officers may be paid from organizational funds only when on official business for the organization. Actual expenses are to be paid for travel for transportation outside the state, along with necessary and reasonable expenses that are to be itemized. Itemized accounting of the travel and business expenses of employees are to be furnished to the department in an annual report on a form prescribed by the department.

**36.5(3) *Financial report.*** Full and detailed reports of all receipts and expenditures are to be filed annually with the department.

**36.5(4) *Bond.*** The executive board of each activity organization will purchase a blanket fidelity bond from a corporate surety approved by the executive board, conditioned upon the faithful performance of the duties of the executive officer, the members of the executive board, and all other employees of the activity

organization. Such blanket bond is to be in a penal amount set by the executive board and is to be the sum of 50 percent of the largest amount of moneys on hand in any 30-day period during the preceding fiscal year, and 20 percent of the net valuation of all assets of the activity organization as of the close of the last fiscal year, but such bond will in no case be in an amount less than \$10,000.

**36.5(5) Audit.**

*a. General.* The financial condition and transaction of all organizations will be examined once each year, or more often if directed by the director of education, by either a certified public accountant chosen by the organization or by a committee chosen by the organization and approved by the director of education.

*b. Examinations by auditors.* Auditors have the right while making the examination to examine all organization papers, books, records, tickets, and documents of any of the officers and employees of the organizations, and have the right in the presence of the custodian or deputy to have access to the cash drawers and cash in the official custody of the officer and to the records of any depository that has funds of the organization in its custody.

*c. Access to records.* Upon request, organizations will make available to the department or its delegated representative all records, data, written policies, books, accounts, and other materials relating to any or all aspects of their operations.

[ARC 7657C, IAB 3/6/24, effective 4/10/24]

**281—36.6(280) Appearance before state board.** At the request of the state board of education or its executive officer, members of the governing boards and employees of the organizations will appear before and give a full accounting and details on the aforesaid matters to the state board of education.

[ARC 7657C, IAB 3/6/24, effective 4/10/24]

**281—36.7(280) Interscholastic athletics.** In addition to the requirements of rule 281—36.8(280), organizations will implement the provisions described below for participants in interscholastic athletic competition.

**36.7(1) Physical examination.** Every year, each student will present to the student's superintendent a certificate signed by a licensed physician and surgeon, osteopathic physician and surgeon, osteopath, qualified doctor of chiropractic, licensed physician associate, or advanced registered nurse practitioner, to the effect that the student has been examined and may safely engage in athletic competition, considering the nature of the athletic competition and the student's health and development.

Each doctor of chiropractic licensed as of July 1, 1974, is to affirm on each certificate of physical examination completed that the affidavit required by Iowa Code section 151.8 is on file with the Iowa board of chiropractic.

The certificate of physical examination is valid for the purpose of this rule for one calendar year. A grace period not to exceed 30 calendar days is allowed for expired physical certifications.

**36.7(2) Sportsmanship.** It is the clear obligation of member and associate member schools to ensure that their contestants, coaches, and spectators in all interscholastic competitions practice the highest principles of sportsmanship, conduct, and ethics of competition. The governing organization has the authority to penalize any member school, associate member school, contestant, or coach in violation of this obligation.

**36.7(3) Awards.** At no time may any student accept an award of cash.

**36.7(4) Interstate competition.** Every student participating in interstate athletic competition on behalf of the student's school must meet the eligibility rules.

**36.7(5) Competition seasons.** The length of training periods and competition seasons is determined solely by the governing organization.

**36.7(6) Tournaments.** The number and type of state tournaments for the various sports is solely determined by the organization. In scheduling and conducting these tournaments, the organization has the final authority for determining the tournament eligibility of all participants. Organization bylaws are to provide for a timely method of seeking an internal review of initial decisions regarding tournament eligibility.

**36.7(7) Ineligible player competition.** Member or associate member schools that permit or allow a student to compete in an interscholastic competition in violation of the eligibility rules or that permit

or allow a student who has been suspended to so compete are subject to penalties imposed by the executive board. The penalties may include forfeiture of contests or events or both, involving any ineligible student(s); adjustment or relinquishment of conference/district/tournament standings; and return of team awards or individual awards or both.

If a student who has been declared ineligible or who has been suspended is permitted to compete in an interscholastic competition because of a current restraining order or injunction against the school, registered organization, or department, and if such restraining order or injunction subsequently is voluntarily vacated, stayed, reversed, or finally determined by the courts not to justify injunctive relief, the penalties listed above may be imposed.

This rule is intended to implement Iowa Code section 280.13.

[ARC 7657C, IAB 3/6/24, effective 4/10/24; ARC 0438D, IAB 7/22/26, effective 8/1/26]

### **281—36.8(280) Eligibility requirements.**

**36.8(1) *Local eligibility and student conduct rules.*** Local boards of education may impose additional eligibility requirements not in conflict with these rules. Nothing herein is to be construed to prevent a local school board from declaring a student ineligible to participate in interscholastic competition by reason of the student's violation of rules adopted by the school pursuant to Iowa Code sections 279.8 and 279.9. A member or associate member school shall not allow any student, including any transfer student, to compete until such time as the school has reasonably reliable proof that the student is eligible to compete for the member or associate member school under these rules.

#### **36.8(2) *Scholarship rules.***

*a.* All contestants are to be enrolled and in good standing in a school that is a member or associate member in good standing of the organization sponsoring the event.

*b.* All contestants who have attained the age of 20 years old are not eligible.

*c.* All contestants in grades 9 through 12 will receive credit in at least four subjects, each of one period or "hour" or the equivalent thereof, at all times. To qualify under this rule, a "subject" will meet the requirements of 281—Chapter 12. Coursework taken from a postsecondary institution and for which a school district or accredited nonpublic school grants academic credit toward high school graduation is used in determining eligibility. No student is to be denied eligibility if the student's school program deviates from the traditional two-semester school year.

(1) Each contestant shall be passing all coursework for which credit is given and making adequate progress toward graduation requirements at the end of each grading period. Grading period, graduation requirements, and any interim periods of ineligibility are determined by local policy. For purposes of this subrule, "grading period" means the period of time at the end of which a student in grades 9 through 12 receives a final grade and course credit is awarded for passing grades.

(2) If at the end of any grading period a contestant is given a failing grade in any course for which credit is awarded, the contestant is ineligible to dress for and compete in the next occurring interscholastic athletic contests and competitions in which the contestant is a contestant for 20 consecutive calendar days, unless the student has already served a period of ineligibility for 20 consecutive calendar days in another school-sponsored activity. A student will not serve multiple periods of ineligibility because of a failing grade.

*d.* A student with a disability who has an individualized education program will not be denied eligibility on the basis of scholarship if the student is making adequate progress, as determined by school officials, toward the goals on the student's individualized education program, unless the course in which the student receives a failing grade has no relationship to those goals.

*e.* A student who meets all other qualifications may be eligible to participate in interscholastic athletics for a maximum of eight consecutive semesters upon entering the ninth grade for the first time, including students who participated during eighth grade. However, a student who engages in athletics during the summer following eighth grade is also eligible to compete during the summer following twelfth grade. Extenuating circumstances, such as health, may be the basis for an appeal to the executive board that may extend the eligibility of a student when the executive board finds that the interests of the student and interscholastic athletics will be benefited.

*f.* All member schools will provide appropriate interventions and necessary academic supports for students who fail or who are at risk to fail.

*g.* A student is academically eligible upon entering the ninth grade, including students who participated in eighth grade.

*h.* A student is not eligible to participate in an interscholastic sport if the student has, in that same sport, participated in a contest with or against, or trained with, a National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA), National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA), National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA), or other collegiate governing organization's sanctioned team. A student may not participate with or against high school graduates if the graduates represent a collegiate institution or if the event is sanctioned or sponsored by a collegiate institution. Nothing in this subrule precludes a student from participating in a one-time tryout with or against members of a college team with permission from the member school's administration and the respective collegiate institution's athletic administration.

*i.* No student is eligible to participate in any given interscholastic sport if the student has engaged in that sport professionally.

*j.* The local superintendent of schools, with the approval of the local board of education, may give permission to a dropout student to participate in athletics upon return to school if the student is otherwise eligible under these rules.

*k.* Remediation of a failing grade by way of summer school or other means does not affect the student's ineligibility. All failing grades will be reported to any school to which the student transfers.

**36.8(3) General transfer rule.** A student in grades 9 through 12 who transfers from a school in another state or country or from one member or associate member school to another member or associate member school shall be ineligible to compete in interscholastic athletics for a period of 140 consecutive calendar days, as defined in 281—Chapter 12, exclusive of summer enrollment, unless one of the exceptions listed in paragraph 36.8(3)“a” applies. The period of ineligibility applies only to varsity level contests and competitions. In ruling upon the eligibility of transfer students, the executive board will consider the factors motivating student changes in residency, which it may consider from both direct and circumstantial evidence. Unless otherwise provided in these rules, a student intending to establish residency must show that the student is physically present in the district for the purpose of making a home and not solely for school or athletic purposes.

*a.* Exceptions. The executive officer or executive board will consider and apply the following exceptions in formally or informally ruling upon the eligibility of a transfer student and may make eligibility contingent upon proof that the student has been in attendance in the new school for at least ten school days:

(1) Upon a contemporaneous change in parental residence, a student is immediately eligible if the student transfers to the new district of residence or to an accredited nonpublic member or associate member school located in the new school district of residence. In addition, if with a contemporaneous change in parental residence, the student had attended an accredited nonpublic member or associate member school immediately prior to the change in parental residence, the student may have immediate eligibility if the student transfers to another accredited nonpublic member or associate member school. For purposes of this subparagraph, a contemporaneous change in parental residence includes a change in a student's residence from the residence of one parent or guardian to the residence of a different parent or guardian.

(2) If the student is attending in a school district as a result of a whole-grade sharing agreement between the student's resident district and the new school district of attendance, the student is immediately eligible.

(3) A student who has attended high school in a district other than where the student's parent(s) resides, and who subsequently returns to live with the student's parent(s), becomes immediately eligible in the parent's resident district.

(4) A student whose residence changes due to any of the following circumstances set forth in Iowa Code section 256.46 is immediately eligible provided the student meets all other eligibility requirements in these rules and those set by the school of attendance. For purposes of Iowa Code section 256.46(1)“d,” participation in a foreign exchange program is based on a J-1 visa issued by the United States government, unless the student attends the school primarily for athletic purposes.

(5) A transfer student who attends in a member or associate member school that is a party to a cooperative student participation agreement, as defined in rule 281—36.13(280), with the member or associate member school the student previously attended is immediately eligible in the new district to compete in those interscholastic athletic activities covered by the cooperative agreement.

(6) Any student whose parents change district of residence but who remains in the original district without interruption in attendance continues to be eligible in the member or associate member school of attendance.

(7) A special education student whose attendance center changes due to a change in placement agreed to by the district of residence is eligible in either the resident district or the district of attendance, but not both.

(8) A student who is found by the attending district to be a homeless child or youth as described in rule 281—33.2(256) is eligible.

(9) In any transfer situation not provided for elsewhere in this chapter, the executive board will exercise its administrative authority to make any eligibility ruling that it deems to be fair and reasonable. The executive board will consider the motivating factors for the student transfer, which it may consider from both direct and circumstantial evidence. The determination will be made in writing with the reasons for the determination clearly delineated. The burden of proving entitlement to administrative discretion under this provision lies with the party seeking it.

b. In ruling upon the transfer of students who have been emancipated by marriage or have reached the age of majority, the executive board will consider all circumstances with regard to the transfer to determine if it is principally for school or athletic purposes, in which case participation will not be approved.

c. A student who participates in the name of a member or associate member school during the summer following eighth grade is ineligible to participate in the name of another member or associate member school in the first 140 consecutive calendar days of ninth grade unless a change of residence has occurred after the student began participating in the summer.

d. A school district that has more than one high school in its district will set its own eligibility policies regarding intradistrict transfers, subject to Iowa Code section 279.82(6).

**36.8(4)** *Open enrollment transfer.* The transfer of a student in grades 9 through 12 whose transfer of schools had occurred due to a request for open enrollment is governed by Iowa Code section 282.18(9).

**36.8(5)** *Eligibility for other enrollment options.*

a. *Shared-time students.* A nonpublic school student who is enrolled only part-time in the public school district of the student's residence under a "shared-time" provision or for driver education is not eligible to compete in interscholastic athletics in the public school district.

b. *Dual enrollment.* A student who receives competent private instruction, not in an accredited nonpublic or public school, may seek dual enrollment in the public school of the student's resident district and is eligible to compete in interscholastic athletic competition in the resident school district provided the student meets the eligibility requirements of these rules and those set by the public school of attendance.

If a student seeking such dual enrollment is enrolled in an associate member school of the union or association, the student is eligible for and may participate in interscholastic athletic competition only for the associate member school or a school with which the associate member school is in a cooperative sharing agreement. (Eligibility in such case is governed by rule 281—36.1(280).)

Any ineligibility imposed under this chapter begins with the first day of participation under dual enrollment. Any period of ineligibility applies only to varsity level contests and competitions.

c. *Competent private instruction.* A student who receives competent private instruction, and is not dual-enrolled in a public school, may participate in and be eligible for interscholastic athletics at an accredited nonpublic school if the student is accepted by that school and the student meets the eligibility requirements of this chapter and those set by the accredited nonpublic school where the student participates. Application will be made to the accredited nonpublic school on a form provided by the department.

If a student seeking such participation is enrolled in an associate member school of the union or association, the student is eligible for and may participate in interscholastic athletic competition only for

the associate member school or a school with which the associate member school is in a cooperative sharing agreement. (Eligibility in such case is governed by rule 281—36.1(280).)

Any ineligibility imposed under this chapter begins with the first day of participation with the accredited nonpublic school. Any period of ineligibility applies only to varsity level contests and competitions.

**36.8(6)** *Summer camps and clinics and coaching contacts out of season.*

a. School personnel, whether employed or volunteers, of a member or associate member school shall not coach that school's student athletes during the school year in a sport for which the school personnel are currently under contract or are volunteers, outside the period from the official first day of practice through the finals of tournament play. However, school personnel may coach a senior student from the coach's school in an all-star contest once the senior student's interscholastic athletic season for that sport has concluded. In addition, volunteer or compensated coaching personnel shall not require students to participate in any activities outside the season of that coach's sport as a condition of participation in the coach's sport during its season.

b. A summer team or individual camp or clinic held at a member or associate member school facility shall not conflict with sports in season. Coaching activities between June 1 and the first day of fall sports practices will not conflict with sports in season. The associations in their discretion may establish a dead period up to 14 calendar days in length. During a dead period, coaches will not be allowed to have contact with students.

c. Penalty. A school whose volunteer or compensated coaching personnel violate this rule is ineligible to participate in a governing organization-sponsored event in that sport for one year with the violator(s) coaching.

**36.8(7)** *Nonschool team participation.* The local school board will, by policy, determine whether or not participation in nonschool athletic events during the same season is permitted and provide penalties for students who may be in violation of the board's policy.

This rule is intended to implement Iowa Code sections 256.46, 280.13 and 282.18.

[ARC 7657C, IAB 3/6/24, effective 4/10/24; ARC 0438D, IAB 7/22/26, effective 8/1/26]

**281—36.9(280) Executive board review.** A student, parent of a minor student, or school contesting the ruling of a student's eligibility based on these rules, other than subrule 36.8(1) or paragraph 36.8(2) "b," "c," "d," "f," or "k" or based on a challenge to a local district finding that a student was not subject to a founded incident of harassment or bullying, or a school contesting a penalty imposed under paragraph 36.8(6) "b," will state the basis of the objections in writing, addressed to the executive officer of the board of the governing organization. Upon request of a student, parent of a minor student, or school, the executive officer will schedule a hearing before the executive board on or before the next regularly scheduled meeting of the executive board but not later than 20 calendar days following the receipt of the objections, unless a later time is mutually agreeable. The executive board will give at least five business days' written notice of the hearing. The executive board will consider the evidence presented and issue findings and conclusions in a written decision within five business days of the hearing and will mail a copy to the appellant. The burden of proving entitlement to relief under this rule lies with the party seeking it.

[ARC 7657C, IAB 3/6/24, effective 4/10/24]

**281—36.10(280) Appeals to director.** If the claimant is still dissatisfied, an appeal may be made in writing to the director of education by giving written notice of the appeal to the state director of education with a copy by registered mail to the executive officer of the governing organization. An appeal is to be in the form of an affidavit and be filed within ten business days after the date of mailing of the decision of the governing organization. The director of education will establish a date for hearing within 20 calendar days of receipt of written notice of appeal by giving at least 5 business days' written notice of hearing to the appellant, unless another time is mutually agreeable. The procedures for hearing adopted by the state board of education and found at 281—Chapter 6 are applicable, except that the decision of the director is final. Appeals to the executive board and the state director are not contested cases under Iowa Code section 17A.2(5). The burden of proving entitlement to relief under this rule lies with the party seeking it.

[ARC 7657C, IAB 3/6/24, effective 4/10/24]

**281—36.11(280) Organization policies.** The constitution or bylaws of organizations sponsoring contests for participation by member schools will reflect the following policies:

**36.11(1) *Expenditure policy.*** It is the expenditure policy of each organization, after payment of costs incurred in rules 281—36.6(280) through 281—36.9(280) and legitimate expenses for housing, equipment and supplies, including by agreement with other organizations having a mutual interest in interscholastic activities, to use all receipts to promote and fiscally sponsor those extracurricular interscholastic contests and competitions deemed by the organization to be most beneficial to all eligible students enrolled in member schools. Organizations with large revenues may provide assistance in staff, space, equipment and the transfer of funds to other organizations whose contests or competitions do not generate sufficient moneys to carry out an adequate program in their areas of service. Each organization will make an annual payment to the federation to cover the necessary expenditures of the federation. The amount of this payment will be determined by the federation.

**36.11(2) *Calendar of events.*** The federation will establish yearly in advance a calendar of events for the interscholastic contests and competitions sponsored by the organizations.

**36.11(3) *Information to local member schools.*** The federation will distribute to member schools the yearly calendar of events and other information believed by officers of the federation to be helpful to local school officials in providing a comprehensive program of extracurricular interscholastic contests or competitions.

**36.11(4) *Participation.*** Participation in interscholastic contests or competitions will be by school teams only and not selected individuals, with the exception of individual sports events such as wrestling, track, cross country, golf, tennis, and music and speech activities.

**36.11(5) *Contests outside Iowa.*** Out-of-state contest participation by a member school is limited to regularly scheduled interscholastic activities.

**36.11(6) *Promoting interstate contests.*** No activity organization is to sponsor interstate contests or competition between individuals, teams or groups.

**36.11(7) *Chaperones.*** It is the responsibility of all school districts to see that all teams or contestants are properly chaperoned when engaged in interscholastic activities.

**36.11(8) *Membership.*** Membership in an organization is limited to schools accredited by the department or approved by the department solely for purposes of associate membership in a registered organization.

[ARC 7657C, IAB 3/6/24, effective 4/10/24]

**281—36.12(280) Eligibility in situations of district organization change.** Notwithstanding any other provision of this chapter, in the event eligibility of one or more students is jeopardized or in question as a result of actions beyond their control due to pending reorganization of school districts approved by the voters under Iowa Code chapter 275; action of the district boards of directors under Iowa Code section 274.37; or the joint employment of personnel and sharing of facilities under Iowa Code section 280.15 and the result is a complete discontinuance of the high school grades, or discontinuance of the high school grades pursuant to Iowa Code section 282.7(1), the boards of directors of the school districts involved may, by written agreement, determine the eligibility of students for the time the district of residence does not provide an activity program governed by this chapter. When the respective boards have not provided by written agreement for the eligibility of students whose eligibility is jeopardized or questioned four weeks prior to the normal established time for beginning the activity, students or parents of students involved may request a determination of eligibility from the governing body of the organization involved. All parties directly interested will be given an opportunity to present their views to the governing board.

A determination of eligibility by the governing board will be based upon fairness and the best interests of the students.

In the event that one or more parties involved in the request for determination before the governing board are dissatisfied with the decision of the governing board, an appeal may be made by the dissatisfied party to the director of the department under the provisions of rule 281—36.10(280). A decision of the director in the matter is final.

The above provisions apply insofar as applicable to changes of organization entered into between two or more nonpublic schools.

This rule is intended to implement Iowa Code section 280.13.

[ARC 7657C, IAB 3/6/24, effective 4/10/24]

**281—36.13(280) Cooperative student participation.** Notwithstanding any other provision of this chapter, in the event a member or associate member school does not directly make participation in an interscholastic activity available to its students, the governing board of the member or associate member school may, by formally adopted policy if among its own attendance centers, or by written agreement with the governing board of another member or associate member school, provide for the eligibility of its students in interscholastic activities provided by another member or associate member school. The eligibility of students under a policy, insofar as applicable, or a written agreement is conditioned upon the following:

**36.13(1)** All terms and conditions of the agreement are in writing;

**36.13(2)** The attendance boundary of each school that is party to the agreement is contiguous to or contained within the attendance boundary of one of the other schools, unless the activity is not offered at any school contiguous to the party district, or all schools that are contiguous refuse to negotiate an agreement with the party district, in which case the contiguous requirement may be waived by the applicable governing organization. For the purposes of this rule, a nonpublic school member will utilize the attendance boundaries of the public school in which its attendance center is located;

**36.13(3)** Any interscholastic activity not available to students of the schools participating in the agreement may be included in the agreement. A school's students may be engaged in cooperative activities under the terms of only one agreement.

However, if several schools are in a consortia cooperative agreement for a specific activity, they are not precluded from having a separate agreement with one or more of the same schools for a different activity as long as all schools of the consortia agree to such a separate agreement;

**36.13(4)** Agreements will be for a minimum of one school year. Amendments may be made to agreements, including allowing additional member schools to join an existing agreement, without necessarily extending the time of existence of the agreement;

**36.13(5)** All students participating under the agreement are enrolled in one of the schools, are in good standing, and meet all other eligibility requirements of these rules;

**36.13(6)** A copy of the written agreement between the governing boards of the particular schools involved, and all amendments to the agreement, will be filed with the appropriate governing organization(s) no later than April 30 for the subsequent year, unless exception is granted by the organization for good cause shown. The agreements and amendments are deemed approved unless denied by the governing organization(s) within ten calendar days;

**36.13(7)** It is the purpose of this rule to allow individual students participation in interscholastic competition in activities not available to them at the school they attend, through local policy or arrangements made between the governing boards of the schools involved, so long as the interscholastic activities of other schools are not substantially prejudiced. Substantial prejudice includes situations where a cooperative effort may result in an unfair domination of an activity or substantial disruption of activity classifications and management. In the event an activity organization determines, after investigation, that an agreement between schools that was developed under the terms of this rule results in substantial prejudice to other schools engaged in the activity, or the terms of the agreement are not in conformity with the purpose and terms of this rule, the activity organization may give timely notice to the schools involved that the local policy or agreement between them is null and void for the purposes of this rule, insofar as cooperative student participation is concerned with a particular activity. Determinations are appealable to the director of education under the applicable terms of rule 281—36.10(280). For notice to be timely, it must be given at least 45 calendar days prior to the beginning of the activity season.

This rule is intended to implement Iowa Code section 280.13.

[ARC 7657C, IAB 3/6/24, effective 4/10/24]

These rules are intended to implement Iowa Code sections 256.46, 280.13, and 282.18.

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◇ Two or more ARCs

<sup>1</sup> See rule 36.20, last paragraph.

<sup>2</sup> See Education, Department of[281], IAB.