



NEW FHSAA EKG REQUIREMENT FOR STUDENT ATHLETES

Beginning with the 2026–2027 school year, Florida law ^{Effective July 1, 2026} requires certain student-athletes to complete an electrocardiogram (EKG) screening before participating in FHSAA- sanctioned sports.

WHO IS REQUIRED TO HAVE AN EKG?

In accordance with **State Statute 1006.20**, beginning in the 2026-2027 school year and thereafter, the following students shall complete at least one electrocardiogram screening:

- All **incoming 9th-grade student-athletes**
- Students in **grades 10–12** who have **never participated** in an FHSAA-sanctioned sport
- Any student who **transfers to Pasco County Schools** and participates in an FHSAA-sanctioned sport
- **Returning athletes** *are not required* to obtain an EKG, but it is **strongly encouraged**.

An EKG performed **on or after July 1, 2024** will satisfy this requirement.

WHY IS THIS REQUIRED?

The goal of the EKG screening is to **identify undetected cardiac risk factors** and **enhance the safety** of student-athletes.

HOW IS PASCO COUNTY SUPPORTING FAMILIES?

Pasco County Schools is partnering with **Who We Play For** to offer EKG screenings at a **reduced cost of \$20 per student**.

- Multiple screening locations will be available in **March and throughout the summer**
- Registration details will be shared by each high school
- Additional information will be available on the **district website** and **social media**

WHAT ARE THE NEXT STEPS IF A STUDENT ATHLETE DOES NOT CLEAR THE EKG SCREENING?

- The student will be **prohibited from tryouts, practice, or competition**
- The student must submit **written medical clearance** to the school
- Clearance must be provided by a **qualified healthcare practitioner** trained in EKG evaluation
- A list of providers can be shared with families to assist with scheduling



For more information, visit: www.pasco.k12.fl.us/athletics

ZEHPHRYHILLS HIGH SCHOOL
Extracurricular Activities, Athletics & Clubs Attendance Policy for Participation

Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to emphasize the importance of daily school attendance and to ensure that students participating in extracurricular athletics, clubs, and activities represent the school with responsibility and accountability.

Policy Statement

Participation in extracurricular athletics, clubs, and school-sponsored activities is a privilege that requires students to maintain regular and responsible school attendance. To be eligible to participate in any school-sponsored practice, competition, performance, meeting, or event on a given day, a student must be present for the entire school day unless an absence is excused in accordance with school policy. Absences with prior knowledge (scheduled doctor/dentist appointment) should be pre-approved to limit confusion on the day of the absence.

Eligibility Requirements

- I. Daily Attendance Requirement:
 - a. A student must attend all scheduled classes and periods during the school day to be eligible to participate in the day's extracurricular activities, including but not limited to practices, rehearsals, competitions, games, and performances.
- II. Unexcused Absence
 - a. If a student has an unexcused absence from any class or period during the school day, the student will be ineligible to participate in any extracurricular activity that same day.
 - b. This applies to all school-related extracurricular activities, including athletics, performing arts, clubs and academic competitions.
- III. Excused Absences:
 - a. Students with an excused absence (as defined by the school's attendance policy) for part of the day may still be eligible to participate, subject to approval from the school administration.
 - b. Examples of excused absences may include verified medical appointments, court appearances, or other approved circumstances.

Verification and Enforcement

Attendance records will be reviewed and monitored daily by the sponsor, head coach, or other staff member leading/supervising the extracurricular activity and ineligibility will be communicated to the student and parent/guardian. Coaches and sponsors are responsible for ensuring that ineligible students do not participate in practices or events.

ZEHPHRYHILLS HIGH SCHOOL
Extracurricular Activities, Athletics & Clubs Grade Policy for Participation

Repeated Violations

Repeated unexcused absences may result in additional consequences, including suspension from the team or club, or removal from participation for the remainder of the season or school year, at the discretion of school administration.

Appeals

Students and/or parents may appeal ineligibility decisions to the school administration if they believe an absence was improperly recorded or if there are extenuating circumstances.

Effective Date

This policy is effective as of August 11, 2025 and applies to all extracurricular programs under the jurisdiction of Zephyrhills High School.