

Board of Education Policy 3.7600
Administrative Procedure

Junior Beta Clubs

The standards established for membership in the Junior Beta Clubs in the Catawba County middle schools are in compliance with guidelines recommended by the National Beta Club organization. The basic qualifications for membership are “worthy character, good mentality, creditable achievement, and commendable attitude.”

The basic qualifications for the Junior Beta Club are established at the national level with broad and general descriptors. Therefore, the Catawba County Schools guidelines for the Junior Beta Club are designed to provide guidance for each local school chapter.

I. Prerequisites for Membership

- A. Membership is by invitation only, based upon academic performance, citizenship, positive leadership, and a commendable attitude toward the school staff and peers.
- B. Membership is limited to students in grades seven and eight, who are functioning at or above grade level as determined by principal judgment and/or End-of-Grade testing.
- C. Membership requires recommendations from the classroom teachers, principal, and the selection committee.
- D. Membership fees are set by the Junior Beta National Office and the local school club.

II. Academic Standards for Choosing Members

- A. A combined term average of 93.0 in all core academic courses: language arts, mathematics, science, and social studies must be obtained.
- B. Students must maintain an 85 or above in all other subject areas.

III. Standards of Conduct

- A. Initial qualifications
In order to qualify for membership, the student must receive an (S) satisfactory or (I) improving conduct grade from each classroom teacher. A student may not receive an (NI) needs to improve or (U) unsatisfactory
Seventh grade students – second nine weeks
Eighth grade students – third and fourth nine weeks of previous year and a second opportunity after first semester of eighth grade year. (Reference Section V, I)
- B. The student shall exhibit exemplary behavior at all times and adhere to the Catawba County Code of Conduct during school, at school-sponsored activities, and on the bus.

IV. Standards for Maintaining Membership

- A. The grade average as identified in Section II A & B must be maintained.
- B. The standard of conduct identified in Section III must be maintained.
- C. Students who do not maintain the identified grade average or identified standard of conduct are subject to one of the following disciplinary actions. These actions may be involved at the end of any nine week academic period.
 - 1. Probation
The club sponsor issues a warning that membership criteria are not being met. A nine week grading period is given to correct the deficiencies. All club privileges are maintained. If after a nine week period, the academic deficiency and/or misconduct are not corrected, and/or if the academic deficiency and misconduct occurs again, the student will be expelled and be ineligible to return during the 7th and 8th school terms.
 - 2. Expulsion
Removal of the student's name from the Junior Beta Club roll. Any infraction resulting in an out-of-school suspension will result in automatic expulsion and ineligibility to return during the 7th and 8th grade school terms.
 - 3. When students are placed on probation or expelled from the Beta Club, parents and students shall be notified in writing.

V. Selection Process

- A. An NCWISE report will be generated and submitted to the selection committee designating those students whose grades indicate eligibility for membership. These will be grades that have not been rounded.
- B. The selection committee will review the submitted list and prepare a roster to present to the principal for review.
- C. The principal shall cause a ballot to be prepared for each individual student to measure the qualifications of the student regarding worthy character, leadership, creditable achievement and commendable attitude. The ballot containing the names of all eligible students shall be distributed to all faculty members at a faculty meeting.
- D. The ballot shall contain the following columns:
 - (1) Recommend
 - (2) No Opinion
 - (3) No
 - (4) Reason

The principal shall instruct the faculty members who do not have first hand knowledge of the student's character, leadership, achievement, or attitude to mark the "No Opinion" column. If a faculty member checks "No," a reason must

be furnished in Column 4. If "No" is checked and no reason is cited, the vote will be recorded as a "No Opinion." The ballot is unsigned

- E. Upon receipt of the ballots, the sponsor will review each ballot and investigate any "no" vote for any reason(s) cited. If in the principal's professional judgment, the reason(s) cited are material, the principal shall not endorse the candidate, thereby denying admission. There shall be no "cut off" scores for recommendation.
- F. The student may be informed of the denial and furnished the reason(s) cited.
- G. Seventh grade students will be chosen for membership after the first semester based on their semester academic average. Conduct will be based on the second nine weeks.
- H. Eight grade students will be chosen for membership at the beginning of the first semester, based on the average of seventh grade second academic semester grades and conduct. Conduct will be based on the third and fourth nine weeks of the seventh grade year.
- I. Eighth grade students have a second opportunity after first semester based on average academic term grades for first semester. Conduct will be based on the first and second nine weeks of the current year.
- J. New members and their parents shall be notified in writing. This written communication may take the form of a letter of congratulations.

Superintendent

January 15, 2003
Date