

REGULATION MONTGOMERY COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Related Entries: IKC-RA IQA-RA, IQB-RA, IQD, IQD-RB, JEA-RA, JEE, JEE-RA
Responsible Offices: Office of the Deputy Superintendent of Schools; Office of the Chief of School Support and Well-being

Academic Eligibility for High School Students Who Participate in Interscholastic Athletics

I. PURPOSE

To set forth systemwide academic eligibility guidelines for high school students who participate in interscholastic athletics or in any athletic stipend extracurricular activity, as listed in the *Negotiated Agreement Between Montgomery County Education Association and the Board of Education of Montgomery County*

II. BACKGROUND

Montgomery County Board of Education Policy IQD, *Extracurricular Activities*, affirms that each student should maintain high academic standards while also pursuing extracurricular activities that contribute to a well-rounded education. The Board supports having both extracurricular activities requiring academic eligibility and extracurricular activities that do not have eligibility requirements.

A student's marking period average is one component of eligibility to participate in interscholastic sports. Other components include, but are not limited to, age, attendance, enrollment, and health requirements set forth by the director of Systemwide Athletics and the Maryland Public Secondary Schools Athletic Association.

III. DEFINITIONS

- A. *Athletic Activities Requiring Academic Eligibility* are defined as those listed as eligible for athletic stipends in the *Negotiated Agreement Between the Montgomery County Education Association and the Board of Education of Montgomery County*.
- B. *Eligibility Period* is the of time from the day that a report card is issued until the day the next report card is issued.

- C. *Failing grade* is any grade that indicates an unacceptable level of performance, including E and NC.
- D. *Marking period average* means the grade average for all classes in which the student was enrolled during a single grading period. It is not a student's overall Grade Point Average (GPA), which is cumulative of final grades of credit-bearing courses in which the student was enrolled.
- E. *Multiperiod course* is a course that is more than one period in length, for which students receive more than ½ credit per semester. Examples include internships, career development programs, and double-period Advanced Placement (AP) courses. This does not refer to a class that meets multiple periods a day according to a block course schedule.
- F. *No Credit (NC)* means the student's level of performance is unacceptable (applicable to CR-NC courses only).

IV. PROCEDURES

- A. Athletic Academic Eligibility
 - 1. High school students who have at least a 2.0 marking period average in the prior marking period with no more than one failing grade will be academically eligible to participate or practice during the next marking period.
 - a) Eligibility standards become effective as of a student's second year in any high school, as initially determined by their marking period average in the fourth quarter of their first year of high school.
 - b) The student will be academically ineligible to play an interscholastic sport in the fall of the next school year if the fourth marking period average for their first year of any high school is below 2.0.
 - 2. Students taking only one or two courses must pass each course and maintain at least a 2.0 marking period average in the prior marking period to be eligible.
 - 3. When computing the marking period average, a multi-period course grade will be counted once for each period the course is offered (e.g., if the course is a three-period course, the grade should be counted three times in determining the marking period average).
 - a) The letter grade for a multi-period course will appear only once on

the report card.

- b) For the purposes of athletic eligibility, a failing course grade is counted only once per course per marking period, regardless of how many periods the course meets.
- 4. Grades reported as incomplete as a result of legally excused absences shall be considered passing grades until changed. Incomplete grades that are not changed to a passing grade within 10 school days after report cards are issued will be considered failing grades, for eligibility purposes, until they are changed.
- 5. Final grades and credits for dropped courses will be computed in accordance with MCPS Regulation IKC-RA, *Grade Point Averages (GPA) and Weighted Grade Point Averages (WGPA)*.
- 6. When a student transfers from an MCPS high school to a non-MCPS high school and subsequently re-enters MCPS, the grades from the non-MCPS high school will be used to determine academic eligibility for the ensuing season, provided the student has attended the non-MCPS high school for at least one entire marking period. If the student has not completed at least one marking period at the non-MCPS school, the grades from the last MCPS high school the student attended will be used to determine eligibility.
- 7. On the day that the report card is issued, each athletics specialist or coach will verify student eligibility.
- 8. Restoring academic eligibility

Under certain conditions, successful completion of one summer school course may restore a student's academic eligibility for fall interscholastic athletics, as follows:

- a) Identify the appropriate summer school course:
 - (1) Repeat the same course for which a student received a "D" or failing grade in the fourth marking period.
 - (2) If the same course for which a student received a "D" or failing grade is not available, take an equivalent summer session course in the same subject area.
 - (3) If the same or equivalent course is not available, consult the student's counselor to identify an appropriate alternate course in the summer session.

- b) Upon completion of the course, submit the summer school grade to the athletics specialist. The athletics specialist in, conjunction with the registrar/school counselor, will verify the grade received to establish the student's eligibility.
- c) Only one summer school course grade will be considered.

B. Exceptions

1. Students who enter an MCPS high school for the first time are automatically academically eligible upon enrollment, and for the duration of the first year of high school. Eligibility is determined at the conclusion of each marking period thereafter, as set forth in section IV.A.1.
2. High school students who receive an approved Change of School Assignment (COSA) out of their current feeder pattern are subject to additional eligibility criteria, set forth in Montgomery County Board of Education Policy JEE, *Student Transfers*.
3. An unsatisfactory evaluation in a non-credit-bearing course is not considered failing for student eligibility.

C. Local School Responsibilities

1. Schools will communicate in writing to students and parents/guardians a list of opportunities for all students to participate in extracurricular activities, including interscholastic athletics.
2. Schools will have a broad range of activities to refer students to in order to help students retain or regain academic eligibility for interscholastic athletics, including contracts, tutoring programs, mentoring and monitoring programs, academic support classes and counseling, study halls during or after school, outreach programs, and/or other programs.
3. Schools will evaluate the effectiveness of support programs.

Related Source: *Code of Maryland Regulations* §§13A.06.03.01 and .02

Regulation History: New Regulation, August 1986, revised December 1986; revised April 5, 1991; revised October 21, 1993; revised December 18, 1996; revised June 20, 2006; revised May 12, 2010; revised October 8, 2021; revised October 23, 2023.

MCPS NONDISCRIMINATION STATEMENT

Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) prohibits illegal discrimination based on race, ethnicity, color, ancestry, national origin, nationality, religion, immigration status, sex, gender, gender identity, gender expression, sexual orientation, family structure/parental status, marital status, age, ability (cognitive, social/emotional, and physical), poverty and socioeconomic status, language, or other legally or constitutionally protected attributes or affiliations. Discrimination undermines our community's long-standing efforts to create, foster, and promote equity, inclusion, and acceptance for all. The Board prohibits the use of language and/or the display of images and symbols that promote hate and can be reasonably expected to cause substantial disruption to school or district operations or activities. For more information, please review Montgomery County Board of Education Policy ACA, *Nondiscrimination, Equity, and Cultural Proficiency*. This Policy affirms the Board's belief that each and every student matters, and in particular, that educational outcomes should never be predictable by any individual's actual or perceived personal characteristics. The Policy also recognizes that equity requires proactive steps to identify and redress implicit biases, practices that have an unjustified disparate impact, and structural and institutional barriers that impede equality of educational or employment opportunities. MCPS also provides equal access to the Boy/Girl Scouts and other designated youth groups.**

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| For inquiries or complaints about discrimination against MCPS students* | For inquiries or complaints about discrimination against MCPS staff* |
| Director of Student Welfare and Compliance Office of District Operations Student Welfare and Compliance 850 Hungerford Drive, Room 55, Rockville, MD 20850 240-740-3215 SWC@mcpsmd.org | Human Resource Compliance Officer Office of Human Resources and Development Department of Compliance and Investigations 45 West Gude Drive, Suite 2500, Rockville, MD 20850 240-740-2888 DCI@mcpsmd.org |
| For student requests for accommodations under Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 | For staff requests for accommodations under the Americans with Disabilities Act |
| Section 504 Coordinator Office of School Support and Well-being Office of Well-being, Learning and Achievement 850 Hungerford Drive, Room 257, Rockville, MD 20850 240-740-5630 504@mcpsmd.org | ADA Compliance Coordinator Office of Human Resources and Development Department of Compliance and Investigations 45 West Gude Drive, Suite 2500, Rockville, MD 20850 240-740-2888 DCI@mcpsmd.org |
| For inquiries or complaints about sex discrimination under Title IX, including sexual harassment, against students or staff* | |
| Title IX Coordinator Office of District Operations Student Welfare and Compliance 850 Hungerford Drive, Room 55, Rockville, MD 20850 240-740-3215 TitleIX@mcpsmd.org | |

**Discrimination complaints may be filed with other agencies, such as the following: U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC), Baltimore Field Office, GH Fallon Federal Building, 31 Hopkins Plaza, Suite 1432, Baltimore, MD 21201, 1-800-669-4000, 1-800-669-6820 (TTY); Maryland Commission on Civil Rights (MCCR), William Donald Schaefer Tower, 6 Saint Paul Street, Suite 900, Baltimore, MD 21202, 410-767-8600, 1-800-637-6247, mCCR@maryland.gov; or U.S. Department of Education, Office for Civil Rights (OCR), The Wanamaker Building, 100 Penn Square East, Suite 515, Philadelphia, PA 19107, 1-800-421-3481, 1-800-877-8339 (TDD), OCR@ed.gov, or www2.ed.gov/about/offices/list/ocr/complaintintro.html.*

***This notification complies with the federal Elementary and Secondary Education Act, as amended.*

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