

POLICY

BOARD OF EDUCATION OF MONTGOMERY COUNTY

Related Entries: ACA, IQA-RA, IQB-RA, IQD-RA, IQD-RB
Responsible Office: Chief of Teaching, Learning, and Schools
Chief of Engagement, Innovations, and Operations

Extracurricular Activities

A. PURPOSE

1. To articulate the Board of Education’s commitment to providing an array of extracurricular opportunities, including interscholastic sports, for students
2. To encourage student engagement in school through a variety of extracurricular activities, with and without academic eligibility requirements, including, but not limited to, interscholastic sports, student government, fine arts, academic teams, and other group activities as an essential part of a complete educational experience
3. To identify extracurricular activities with academic eligibility requirements

B. ISSUE

1. Research has shown that participation in extra-curricular activities –
 - a) leads to improved academic performance;
 - b) enhances persistence to graduation;
 - c) supports students as they explore interests and create broader perspectives;
 - d) promotes higher self-esteem; and
 - e) teaches essential life skills.
2. Extracurricular activities, including interscholastic sports, are a valuable part of the entire education of each student and are often cited among the key factors to helping students stay engaged in school along with a friendly and supportive staff, positive peer relationships, and the ability to understand the work. Extra-curricular activities

help students build relationships, obtain assistance with homework, learn how to navigate the school and community cultures, and enhance a sense of belonging to their school community.

3. Participation in extra-curricular activities has also been shown to result in improved school attendance. Positively interacting with peers and adults outside the classroom, such as in after-school clubs and interscholastic sports, facilitate building the relationships vital to a student's emotional, social, and intellectual development and overall school success.

C. POSITION

1. The Board supports having both extracurricular activities requiring academic eligibility and extracurricular activities predicated upon open enrollment.
2. The Board recognizes that participation in extracurricular activities should be maintained and supported by academic standards but does not desire to impede a student's participation in an activity that could be the key to their continued engagement in school.
3. The Board seeks to balance the state and collegiate expectations with its interest in making extracurricular activities, including interscholastic sports, accessible to as many students as possible; hence, the Board sets forth below academic eligibility requirements that are supportive of broad student engagement.
 - a) Academic eligibility standards for participation in athletic activities are necessary to prepare students for participation in athletic competitions at the state-wide level and to prepare them to meet the academic eligibility standards requirements at the collegiate level, should they desire to pursue sports beyond high school; therefore, academic eligibility standards must be established and communicated.
 - b) Decisions regarding a student's academic eligibility for participation in interscholastic sports, as listed in the MCPS Middle School Athletic Handbook and the MCPS High School Athletic Handbook will be made as follows:
 - (1) Students in middle and high schools must maintain a 2.0 average with no more than one failing grade in the previous marking period to be eligible to participate in interscholastic sports.
 - (2) For middle school students, this requirement becomes effective as of the start of the second marking period of their first year in middle

school.

- (3) For high school students, this requirement becomes effective as of their 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.
 - (4) The academic eligibility requirement does not apply to students engaged in activities that are extensions of a graded course.
- c) It is the obligation of the district to make supports for maintaining academic performance and academic eligibility available to students.
 - d) Students in middle school who are not academically eligible may petition to be reinstated in an activity if they have shown evidence of progress toward meeting eligibility standards. Middle school principals will make final decisions regarding these petitions.

D. DESIRED OUTCOMES

Each student should maintain high academic standards while also pursuing extracurricular activities that contribute to a well-rounded education.

E. IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES

1. All middle and high schools should provide and communicate opportunities for all students to participate in extracurricular activities.
2. Schools should help students retain or regain academic eligibility by providing and referring students to such support activities as intervention plans, 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 should share best practices that increase student academic eligibility for athletic activities.
4. Schools should develop mechanisms to evaluate the effectiveness of support programs.
5. The superintendent of schools will publish regulations to implement this policy as needed.

F. REVIEW AND REPORTING

1. The superintendent of schools will report annually to the Board on high school academic ineligibility rates disaggregated by grade level, race/ethnicity, gender, and receipt of special services in the Annual Report.
2. This policy will be reviewed in accordance with the Board of Education review process.

Policy History: Adopted by Resolution No. 69790, November 13, 1990; reformatted December 1996; amended by Resolution No. 37-05, February 14, 2006; amended by Resolution 239-11, May 10, 2011; amended by Resolution No. 156-21, March 23, 2021.

Note previous policy history: Adopted by Resolution No. 28586, May 13, 1986; reformatted in accordance with Resolution 45886, August 12, 1986; rescinded by Resolution No. 69790; November 13, 1990