

BOARD OF EDUCATION
POLICY 9070
ACADEMIC ELIGIBILITY FOR HIGH SCHOOL
EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Effective: July 1, 2005

I. Policy Statement

The Board of Education of Howard County is committed to providing a well-rounded program of student activities for high school students as a complement to the education program. The board further recognizes that to best serve the vision and mission of the school system, extracurricular activities must not, in any way, supplant academics as the primary focus of the school system.

II. Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to establish minimum academic criteria that must be met by students to participate in school-sponsored extracurricular activities.

III. Definitions

- A. Extracurricular Activities - Activities available to students beyond the regular school day, which are voluntary and not required for the satisfactory completion of a particular class.
- B. Authorized Courses - Courses for which credit is awarded and which have been approved for offering in the Howard County public schools.
- C. Parent - Any one of the following, recognized as the adult(s) legally responsible for the student:
- Biological parent - Natural begetter of the student; mother or father.
 - Adoptive parent - Person who has legally adopted the student.
 - Custodian - Person or agency appointed by the court as the legal custodian of the student and granted parental rights and privileges.
 - Guardian - Person who has been placed by the court in charge of the affairs of the student and granted parental rights and privileges.
 - Caretaker - An adult resident of Howard County who exercises care, custody or control over the student, but who is neither the biological parent nor legal guardian of the minor.

IV. Standards

The following rules will govern academic eligibility for student participation in all extracurricular activities. These activities may include (this listing is not all-inclusive) the

following: athletic teams, cheerleading, school plays and musicals, school clubs, running for elective office (Student Government Association or class), and nonrequired trips by performing groups (bands, choirs, etc.)

A. Earning Academic Eligibility

1. High school students: A full-time student earns academic eligibility to participate in extracurricular activities by passing all authorized courses for the marking period and maintaining a 2.0 grade-point average with no failing grades for the marking period which governs eligibility for that activity. This provision does not apply to incoming 9th grade students for fall eligibility.
2. Incomplete grades must be converted to a letter grade to determine eligibility. (Reference Policy 8020 - Grading and Reporting: High School)

B. Marking Period Criteria

1. Each extracurricular activity is governed by only one marking period.
2. A student must have earned academic eligibility prior to the start of the activity (as determined by the last report card).
3. Once academic eligibility has been earned for a particular activity, the student will remain academically eligible for the duration of that activity season (e.g., basketball season) or in the case of yearlong activities or those which do not have a particular time frame, eligibility will be reviewed at the end of each successive marking period.
4. A student who has not earned academic eligibility prior to the start of the activity may not become eligible during the course of the activity.
5. Definition of Marking Period for Eligibility:
 - a. Interscholastic Athletics Marking Periods
 - i. Fall sport eligibility - determined for students in grades 10, 11, and 12 by final marking period grades of the preceding June. All incoming 9th grade students are eligible for fall athletics.
 - ii. Winter sport eligibility - determined by the grades earned on the designated date closest to November 15.
 - iii. Spring sport eligibility - determined by the grades earned on the designated date closest to March 1.
 - b. Other Extracurricular Activities Marking Periods
 - i. Those activities will be governed by the report card most immediately preceding the start of the activity, i.e., try-out or auditions for plays, announcing candidacy for elective office.
 - ii. In the case of nonrequired trips by performing groups, the report card most immediately preceding the trip will govern.

Students who have less than a C or 2.0 grade point average or any failing grades for the final marking period may attend summer school to gain eligibility for fall interscholastic athletics and other extracurricular activities. (Reference Policy 8020.)

C. Special Education Students/504 students

1. A special education student may receive a waiver of academic ineligibility from the local school IEP (individualized education plan) team when it is determined that failure to meet the eligibility requirement is a direct result of the handicapping condition. Such a determination by the IEP team is to be reported immediately to the school principal who will then certify the student's eligibility to participate in extracurricular activities.
2. A student with a 504 plan may receive a waiver of academic ineligibility from the local 504 team when it is determined that FAPE (Free and Appropriate Public Education) was not provided, and that the failure to provide FAPE led to the student being academically ineligible. Such a determination by the 504 team is to be reported immediately to the school principal who will then certify the student's eligibility to participate in extracurricular activities.

V. Compliance

A. Athletics

1. A student participating in athletics and his/her parent are responsible for certifying the student's academic eligibility by signing the Howard County Public School System participation form prior to participation.
2. Athletic coaches are responsible for verifying the academic eligibility of each athlete participating on their team(s) prior to the first practice session.
3. Athletic Directors are responsible for verifying the academic eligibility of each athlete participating on athletic teams at his/her school prior to the first game.
4. The principal/designee is responsible for certifying that each athlete representing his/her school meets the school system's academic eligibility requirements prior to the first game.

B. Extra-curricular

1. Sponsors are responsible for verifying the academic eligibility of each participating student prior to the first activity.
2. The principal/designee is responsible for certifying that each student meets academic eligibility requirements prior to the first activity.

VI. Delegation of Authority

The Superintendent is directed to develop procedures to implement this policy.

ADOPTED: July 23, 1981

AMENDED: May 9, 1991

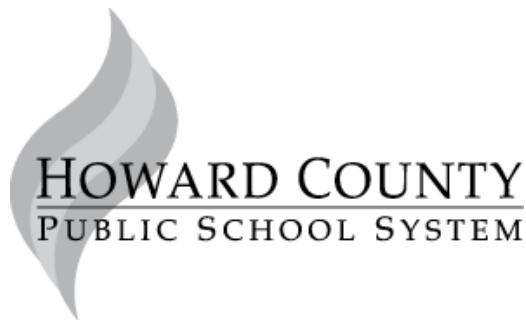
January 28, 1993

August 22, 1996

May 25, 2000

January 27, 2005

EFFECTIVE: July 1, 2005



POLICY 9070-PR
IMPLEMENTATION PROCEDURES
**ACADEMIC ELIGIBILITY FOR HIGH SCHOOL
EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES**

Effective: July 1, 2005

I. Marking Reporting Periods

- A. All schools will determine fall eligibility for 10th, 11th, and 12th graders by the final marking period grades of the preceding June. All incoming 9th graders are eligible for fall extracurricular activities.
- B. The sports seasons shall be defined as follows:
 - 1. "Fall" means August 15th until the final date of the county, conference, district, regional, or State tournament.
 - 2. "Winter" means November 15th until the final date of the local conference, district, regional, or State tournament.
 - 3. "Spring" means March 1st until the final date of the local conference, district, regional, or State tournament.
 - 4. When August 15th, November 15th, or March 1st falls on Sunday, practice will start the preceding Saturday.

II. Summer School

- A. Review credit course grades earned in summer school will replace the same or similar grade earned during the final marking period.
- B. Original credit course grades earned in summer school may be added to the final marking period grades to increase the grade point average to a 2.0 grade point average or higher.
- C. Determining eligibility after summer school grades
 - 1. Substitute grades earned in summer school for review courses earned in final marking period.
 - 2. Add additional original course grades to final marking period grades.
 - 3. Compute grade point average, check for failing grades. Students become eligible if above a 2.0 grade point average and no failing grades remain.

III. Transfer Students

- A. Out of county. A student moving into the county who wishes to participate in extracurricular activities must meet the eligibility requirements of Policy 9070.

Eligibility upon entering the county will be determined by the student's grades during the last full quarter of attendance in his/her previous school.

- B. Within county. A student transferring within the county will use the grade report from the prior school that determined eligibility for that specific activity.

IV. Special Education Students

- A. If a special education student becomes ineligible to participate in extracurricular activities, the student and/or his/her parent/guardian may contact the principal of the school and request the convening of an IEP team meeting in order to determine whether or not the student's ineligibility is the direct result of his/her handicapping condition.
- B. The IEP team will convene at the earliest possible date following receipt of a request. In the case of athletic activities, the student may begin practicing with the team once the request is made. The student may not participate in any games until and unless the IEP team determines that ineligibility should be waived. In the case of nonathletic activities, the student may begin participating in preparatory activities (e.g., practices, rehearsals, etc.) once the request is made. The student may not participate in special events associated with that activity (e.g., performances, field trips, etc.) until and unless the IEP team determines that ineligibility should be waived.
- C. The IEP team will make a determination as to whether or not the student's academic ineligibility is a direct result of his/her handicapping condition and will notify the principal immediately of that determination.
- D. If the IEP team determines that the student's ineligibility is due to his/her handicapping condition, the principal will grant the waiver and declare the student eligible. The student may begin full participation in the extracurricular activities immediately. If the IEP team determines that ineligibility is not a result of the handicapping condition, then the student is not eligible to continue further participation.

V. Students with a 504 Plan

- A. If a student with a 504 plan becomes ineligible to participate in extracurricular activities, the student and/or his/her parent/guardian may contact the principal of the school to request that the local 504 team convene to determine whether a failure to provide the student FAPE (Free and Appropriate Public Education) led to the student's ineligibility.

- B. The 504 team will convene at the earliest possible date following receipt of a request. In the case of athletic activities, the student may begin practicing with the team once the request is made. The student may not participate in any games until and unless the 504 team determines that the ineligibility should be waived. In the case of nonathletic activities, the student may begin participating in the preparatory activities (e.g., practices, rehearsals, etc.) once the request is made. The student may not participate in special events associated with the activity (e.g., performances, field trips, etc.) until and unless the 504 team determines that the ineligibility should be waived.
- C. The 504 team will make a determination as to whether a failure to provide the student FAPE led to the student's ineligibility and will notify the principal immediately of that determination.
- D. If the 504 team determines that FAPE was not provided and led to the student being ineligible, the principal will grant the waiver and declare the student eligible. The student may begin full participation in extracurricular activities immediately. If the 504 team determines that ineligibility is not a result of a failure to provide FAPE, then the student is not eligible to continue further participation.

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