

MEMORANDUM

May 28, 2020
Information - NEW



Office of the Chief Operating Officer
MONTGOMERY COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Rockville, Maryland

TO: All Principals
FROM: Jeffrey K. Sullivan, Director, Systemwide Athletics *JKS*
SUBJECT: *Academic Eligibility for Athletics and Extracurricular Activities*

Summary

The purpose of this memorandum is to provide updated information regarding academic eligibility for athletics and extracurricular activities, as a result of the exigent circumstances caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. On May 12, 2020, the Montgomery County Board of Education unanimously approved a temporary suspension of Board of Education Policy IQD: *Academic Eligibility for Extracurricular Activities*, in order to grant academic eligibility to all secondary students for the fourth marking period for the 2019–2020 school year and the first semester (first and second marking periods) for the 2020–2021 school year. This suspension allows all students to continue participating in virtual meetings, workouts, and activities during the current Continuity of Learning time period, as well as provides all students with the opportunity to participate in an athletic and/or extracurricular activity for the first semester of the 2020–2021 school year. As a result of the Board’s action, Montgomery County Public Schools Regulations IQD-RA: *Academic Eligibility for High School Students Who Participate in Extracurricular Activities*, and IQD-RB: *Academic Eligibility for Middle School Students Who Participate in Extracurricular Activities*, are in turn suspended for the same duration.

Background

The suspension of this Board policy, and the accompanying regulations, aligns with the guiding principles during the Continuity of Learning, which include: providing a balance of structure and flexibility for teachers and students; ensuring maximum flexibility, fairness and equity; avoiding any systems or unintended practices that could negatively impact a student’s academic standing; protecting our most vulnerable students and students who historically have not benefited from traditional grading practices; focusing on student-well-being, understanding the anxiety of the current situation, and reducing stress; and supporting students in ways that help promote a growth mindset and feeling of progress in learning.

The Athletics Unit, in collaboration with other extracurricular stakeholders, has developed a framework that assists coaches and extracurricular activity sponsors with supporting students during the Continuity of Learning time period. This temporary suspension of the academic eligibility requirements for the three aforementioned marking periods allows for all students the opportunity to engage in athletic and extracurricular activities and receive additional support that promotes their mental, physical, and social-emotional well-being.

Important Dates

All secondary students will be academically eligible to participate in athletics and extracurricular activities for the remainder of the 2019–2020 school year (fourth marking period) and the first semester of the 2020–2021 school year (first and second marking periods). Grades earned during the second marking period of the 2020–2021 school year will determine academic eligibility for the third marking period.

Links/Additional Information

If you have any questions, please contact me via email.