

REGULATION MONTGOMERY COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Related Entries: IQA-RA , IQB-RA, IQD
Responsible Office: Deputy Superintendent of Schools
Chief Operating Officer

Academic Eligibility for Middle School Students Who Participate in Extracurricular Activities

I. PURPOSE

To delineate systemwide academic eligibility guidelines for middle school students who participate in extracurricular activities

II. BACKGROUND

This regulation will standardize academic eligibility procedures to be used by middle school students who choose to participate in any nonathletic and/or athletic stipend extracurricular activity, as listed in the *Negotiated Agreement Between Montgomery County Education Association and the Board of Education of Montgomery County Public Schools*. Additionally, there is an expectation that there will be extracurricular activities with open enrollment in all Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) middle schools, thereby creating opportunities for participation for all students, regardless of academic eligibility.

III. DEFINITIONS

- A. *Extracurricular Activities Requiring Academic Eligibility* are defined as athletics, school student government offices, class offices, and activities listed as eligible for nonathletic and athletic stipends in the *Negotiated Agreement Between Montgomery County Education Association and the Board of Education of Montgomery County Public Schools*. Attending an activity hosted by a group whose sponsor receives a qualifying stipend does not require academic eligibility.
- B. *2.0 Average* is the minimum grade average for all classes in which the student was scheduled during the previous grading period. It is not a student's overall Grade Point Average (GPA).
- C. *Failing Grade* is any grade that indicates an unacceptable level of performance, including E and NC.

- D. *Eligibility Period* is the period from the day that a report card is issued and is sustained until the day the next report card is issued.

IV. PROCEDURES

A. Eligibility

1. Students who have a 2.0 average with no more than one failing grade in the previous marking period will be academically eligible to participate or practice during the next marking period in any extracurricular activity requiring academic eligibility.

A multihour course is considered one subject. When computing the marking period grade average, the multihour course grade will be counted once for each hour 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 grade average. However, the letter grade for a multihour course will appear only once on the report card.

2. 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 passing grades within 10 school days after report cards are issued will be considered failing grades for eligibility purposes until they are changed.
3. Student Withdrawal from Courses
 - a) A student may withdraw 25 days or less into a course without penalty or record.
 - b) When a student withdraws from a course after day 25, the student will be given the grade at the time of the withdrawal from the course, and that grade will be factored into the marking period grade average for the purpose of academic eligibility only.
4. When a student withdraws from an MCPS middle school after 25 days of a marking period, the grades the student has earned at the time of withdrawal will be used to determine academic eligibility for an ensuing sport season.
5. When a student transfers from an MCPS middle school to a non-MCPS school and subsequently reenters MCPS, the grades from the non-MCPS school will be used to determine academic eligibility, provided the student has attended the non-MCPS 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 school the student attended will be used to determine eligibility.

6. On the day that the report card is issued, each activity sponsor, athletic coordinator, or coach will verify student eligibility for extracurricular participation requiring academic eligibility.
7. Middle school students who do not maintain a 2.0 average with no more than one failing grade during the final (fourth) marking period will not be eligible in the fall. Students may repeat failed courses in summer school; however, if a failed course is not offered during the summer session, the student will be allowed to take another course in the same subject area, if available. If such a course is not available, the student and his/her counselor will decide on an alternate course and/or subject area. The summer session grade will replace the lowest course grade from the previous marking period and be factored in to determine the 2.0 minimum average for participation.

B. Exceptions

1. Students who enter an MCPS middle school for the first time are automatically academically eligible upon enrollment. Eligibility is determined at the conclusion of each marking period thereafter.
2. This regulation does not govern activities related to course objectives or extension of a graded course or of a high school credit course (e.g., concert or drama presentation) in a middle school that would adversely affect the student's grade.
3. An unsatisfactory evaluation in a non-graded course is not considered failing for student eligibility.
4. Students in middle school who are not academically eligible may petition an activity sponsor not less than two weeks after the distribution of report cards to be reinstated in an activity if they have shown evidence of progress toward meeting eligibility standards. Middle school principals will make the final decisions regarding eligibility of middle school students.

C. Local School Responsibilities

1. School staff should communicate in writing to students and parents a list of opportunities for all students to participate in extracurricular activities,

including the extracurricular activities with open enrollment that do not require academic eligibility.

2. Schools should have a broad range of activities for staff to refer students to in order to help students retain or regain academic eligibility for all extracurricular activities, 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. School staff should develop mechanisms to evaluate the effectiveness of support programs.

Source: Code of Maryland Regulations §§13A.06.03.01,.02

Regulation History: New Regulation, December 18, 1996; revised June 21, 2006; revised February 23, 2007.