Student Eligibility

Montgomery County Board of Education
November 10, 2020
The “Why”

• As a district committed to nondiscrimination, equity, and cultural responsiveness, MCPS strives to remove barriers for all students so they may have access to athletics and extracurricular activities to strengthen student engagement.

• The R.A.I.S.E. core values of MCPS athletics include equity and access. Similarly, these core values apply to all extracurricular activities.

• MCPS is committed to analyzing operations through an equity lens.
“Students often start thinking about dropping out as early as 6th grade (Hanover Research, p.7) but most drop out beginning in 9th grade. In the time period mentioned, 2017 to now, approximately 544 9th graders dropped out, 696 10th graders, 390 11th graders, and 380 seniors. For students who remain in school, many students, especially Hispanic/Latino and African-American students, fail to achieve academically as well as their peers (St. George, 2019), due to significant lack of engagement.”

- Student Engagement Report, 2019
The “Why”

2018-19 9th Grade Eligibility by Focus Group
Extracurricular Activities and Athletics

Research has shown that participation in extracurricular activities and interscholastic athletics:

• Leads to improved academic performance;
• Enhances persistence to graduate;
• Supports students as they explore interests and create broader perspectives;
• Promotes higher self-esteem; and
• Teaches essential life skills.
Interscholastic Athletics

Eligibility standards for middle and high school participation are necessary to:

• Prepare students for participation in athletic competitions at the state-wide level
• Provide coaches with measures and data to support the academic success of students
• Prepare students to meet the academic eligibility standards requirements at the collegiate levels
Removing Barriers and Increasing Access

Current State:
• Students must achieve a 2.0 marking period average (MPA) and no more than 1 “E” for athletics and non-athletic extracurricular activities.
• Students are eligible first marking period of first year; eligibility initially determined by MPA in the first quarter of first year for the second marking period.

Proposed State:
Academic eligibility rules would apply only to athletics, and for -
• Middle school students beginning in their second marking period as determined by first marking period grades (existing policy), and
• High school students beginning in their second year, as determined by preceding fourth marking period grades.