

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.

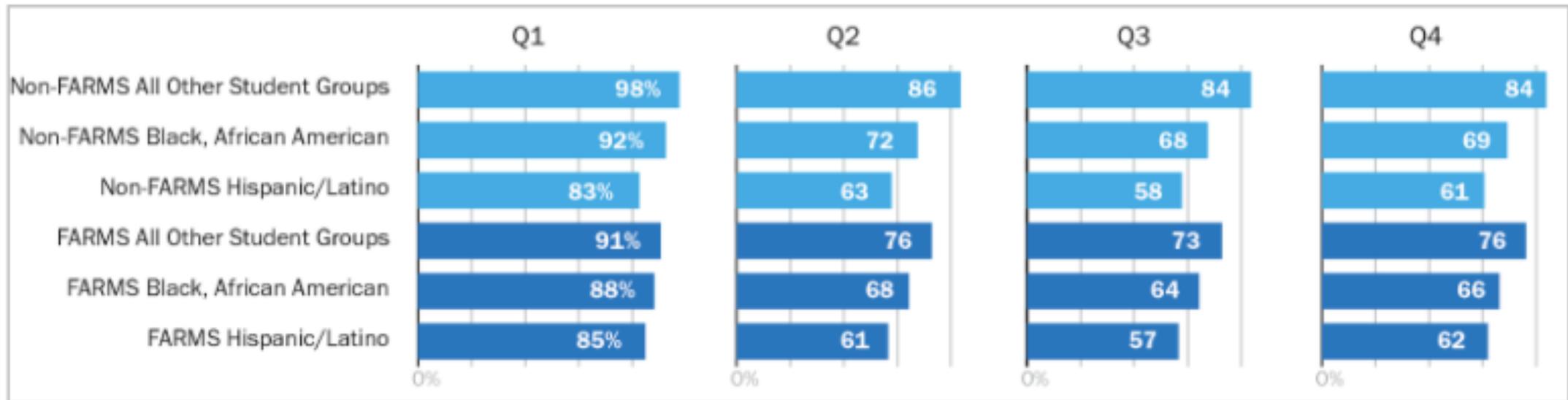
The “Why”

“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.