

1 Related Entries: **ACA, IQA-RA, IQB-RA, IQD-RA, IQD-RB**
2 Responsible Office: ~~Deputy Superintendent of Schools~~**Chief of**
3 **Teaching, Learning, and Schools**
4 **Chief of Engagement, Innovations, and**
5 **Operations** ~~Operating Officer~~

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8 ~~Academic Eligibility for Extracurricular Activities~~

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11 A. PURPOSE

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13 1. To articulate the Board of Education's ~~(Board)~~
14 commitment to providing an array of extracurricular
15 opportunities, **including interscholastic sports**, for
16 students.
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18 2. **To encourage student engagement in school through** ~~Having~~
19 a variety of extracurricular ~~options~~**activities, with and**
20 **without academic eligibility requirements**, including,
21 but not limited to, ~~cultural~~ ~~arts,~~
22 ~~athletics~~**interscholastic sports, student government,**
23 **fine arts, academic teams,** and other ~~team~~**group**
24 activities ~~is~~**as** an essential part of a complete
25 educational experience
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27 3. **To identify extracurricular activities with academic**
28 **eligibility requirements**

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B. ISSUE

1. Research has shown that participation in extra-curricular activities -
 - a) leads to improved academic performance;
 - b) enhances persistence to graduation;
 - c) supports students as they explore interests and create broader perspectives;
 - d) promotes higher self-esteem; and
 - e) teaches essential life skills.

2. Extracurricular activities, including interscholastic sports, are a valuable part of the entire education of each student and are often cited among the key factors to helping students stay engaged in school along with a friendly and supportive staff, positive peer relationships, and the ability to understand the work. Extra-curricular activities help students build relationships, obtain assistance with homework, learn how to navigate the school and community cultures, and enhance a sense of belonging to their school community.

3. Participation in extra-curricular activities has also been shown to result in improved school attendance. Positively interacting with peers and adults outside the classroom, such as in after-school clubs and

57 interscholastic sports, facilitate building the
58 relationships vital to a student's emotional, social,
59 and intellectual development and overall school success.

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61 C. POSITION

62 ~~3.~~

63 1. The Board supports having both extracurricular
64 activities requiring academic eligibility and
65 extracurricular activities predicated upon open
66 enrollment.

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68 2. The Board recognizes that participation in
69 extracurricular activities should be maintained and
70 supported by academic standards but does not desire to
71 impede a student's participation in an activity that
72 could be the key to their continued engagement in school.

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75 ~~2-3.~~ The Board seeks to balance the state and collegiate
76 expectations with its interest in making extracurricular
77 activities, including interscholastic sports,
78 accessible to as many students as possible; hence, the
79 Board sets forth below academic eligibility requirements
80 that are supportive of broad student engagement. ~~-~~

81 ~~Extracurricular activities are a valuable part of the~~
82 ~~entire education of each student. However,~~
83 ~~participation in extracurricular activities should be~~
84 ~~maintained and supported by academic standards.~~

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a) Academic eligibility standards for ~~middle and high school~~ participation in **athletic** ~~extra-curricular~~ activities **are necessary to prepare students for participation in athletic competitions at the state-wide level and to prepare them to meet the academic eligibility standards requirements at the collegiate level, should they desire to pursue sports beyond high school; therefore, academic eligibility standards** ~~listed as stipend-compensated activities in the negotiated Agreement Between Montgomery County Education Association and the Montgomery County Board of Education (hereafter referred to as the Agreement)~~ must be established and communicated.

b) Decisions regarding a student's academic eligibility for participation in **interscholastic sports, as listed in the MCPS Middle School Athletic Handbook and the MCPS High School Athletic Handbook** ~~extra-curricular activities~~ will be made as follows:

- (1) Students in middle and high schools must maintain a 2.0 average with no more than one failing grade in the previous marking period to be eligible to participate in **interscholastic sports.** ~~any activity listed as~~

114 a ~~stipend-compensated activity in the~~
115 ~~Agreement.~~

116 (2) **For middle school students, this requirement**
117 **becomes effective as of the start of the**
118 **second marking period of their first year in**
119 **middle school.**

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121 (3) **For high school students, this requirement**
122 **becomes effective as of their second year in**
123 **any high school as initially determined by**
124 **their marking period average in the fourth**
125 **quarter of their first year of high school.**

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127 (4) **The academic eligibility requirement** ~~This does~~
128 ~~not apply to students in the fall entering~~
129 ~~middle or high school for the first time or to~~
130 ~~students engaged in activities that are~~
131 ~~extensions of a graded course.~~

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133 c) It is the obligation of the ~~school system~~**district**
134 to make supports for maintaining academic
135 performance and academic eligibility available to
136 students.

137
138 d) Students in middle school who are not academically
139 eligible may petition to be reinstated in an
140 activity if they have shown evidence of progress
141 toward meeting eligibility standards. Middle

142 school principals will make final decisions
143 regarding these petitions.
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145 D. DESIRED OUTCOMES
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147 Each student should maintain high academic standards while
148 also pursuing extracurricular activities that contribute to
149 a well-rounded education.
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151 E. IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES
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153 1. All middle and high schools should provide and
154 communicate opportunities for all students to
155 participate in extracurricular activities. ~~by ensuring~~
156 ~~that there are a range of possibilities, including~~
157 ~~extracurricular activities with open enrollment that do~~
158 ~~not require academic eligibility.~~
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160 2. Schools should help students retain or regain **academic**
161 ~~eligibility for all extracurricular activities requiring~~
162 ~~academic eligibility~~ by providing and referring students
163 to such support activities as **intervention plans,**
164 **contracts,** tutoring programs, mentoring and monitoring
165 programs, academic support classes and counseling, study
166 halls during or after school, outreach programs and/or
167 other programs.
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169 3. Schools should share best practices that increase

170 student academic eligibility for **athletic**
171 ~~extracurricular~~ activities.
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173 4. Schools should develop mechanisms to evaluate the
174 effectiveness of support programs.
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176 5. The superintendent **of schools** will publish regulations
177 to implement this policy as needed.
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179 F. REVIEW AND REPORTING
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181 1. The superintendent **of schools** will report annually to
182 the Board on high school academic ineligibility rates
183 disaggregated by grade level, race/ethnicity, gender,
184 and receipt of special services in the Annual Report.
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186 2. This policy will be reviewed in accordance with the Board
187 of Education review process.
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190 *Policy History:* Adopted by Resolution No. 69790, November 13,
191 1990; reformatted December 1996; amended by Resolution No. 37-05,
192 February 14, 2006; amended by Resolution 239-11, May 10, 2011;
193 **amended by Resolution _____**.
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195 *Note previous policy history:* Adopted by Resolution No. 28586,
196 May 13, 1986; reformatted in accordance with Resolution 45886,
197 August 12, 1986; rescinded by Resolution No. 69790; November 13,

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IQD

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