

REGULATION MONTGOMERY COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Related Entries: IQA-RA, IQA-EA, IQB-RA, IQB-EA, IQD

Responsible Office: Deputy Superintendent of Schools
Instruction and Program Development

Academic Eligibility for High School Students Who Participate in Extracurricular Activities

I. PURPOSE

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

II. BACKGROUND

This regulation will standardize academic eligibility procedures to be used by high 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*.

III. DEFINITIONS

- A. *Extracurricular Activities* - Interscholastic athletics, school student government offices, class offices, and activities listed as nonathletic and athletic stipends in the *Negotiated Agreement Between Montgomery County Education Association and the Board of Education of Montgomery County Public Schools*.
- B. *2.0 Average* - The minimum grade average for all classes in which the student is scheduled during the previous grading period. It is not a student's overall Grade Point Average (GPA).
- C. *Grade E* - Unacceptable level of performance means the student did not earn course credit or is not achieving course outcomes or objectives at the grade of D or higher.

- D. *Loss of Credit (LC) / E₂* - Five or more unexcused absences per semester in any course by students in Grades 9-12. (A grade of E₂ is noted on the report card).
- E. *No Credit (NC)* - The student's level of performance is unacceptable (applicable to CR-NC courses only).
- F. *Multihour Courses* - Courses that are more than one hour in length for which students receive more than ½ credit per semester. Examples include internships, career development programs, and double period Advanced Placement (AP) courses.
- G. *Eligibility Period* - The period for eligibility is 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 "E" (failure) in the previous marking period automatically will be eligible to participate or practice in any extracurricular activity governed by this regulation during the next marking period.
 - a) 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.
 - b) A grade of LC/E₂ or NC shall be considered failing.
2. Students who are ineligible because of a grade of LC will become eligible as soon as the teacher notifies the activity sponsor, athletic director or coach that the grade has officially been changed to a grade of D or higher in the office of the registrar and the minimum average of 2.0 is attained.
3. 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 a passing grade within ten school days after report cards are issued will be considered failing grades for eligibility purposes until they are changed.

4. Student Withdrawal from Courses
 - a) A student may withdraw 25 days or less into a course without penalty or record.
 - b) A student may not drop more than one course after the 25-day drop/add deadline, regardless of grades, for purposes of academic eligibility.
 - c) When a student withdraws from a course after day 25, the student will be given the grade at the time of withdrawal from the course, and that grade will be factored into the marking period grade average for the purpose of academic eligibility only.
5. When a student withdraws from an MCPS high school after day 25 of the first marking period of the first or second semester, thereby precluding the student from having a current marking period grade average for the final marking period of the school year, the grades the student had earned at the time of withdrawal will serve to determine the student's academic eligibility for the fall sport season of the ensuing school year. Students who are academically ineligible under this section of this regulation may file an appeal on their eligibility status based solely on extenuating circumstances.
6. On the day that the report card is issued, each activity sponsor, athletic director, or coach will verify student eligibility for extracurricular participation.
7. Students taking only one or two courses must pass each course and maintain a 2.0 average to be eligible.
8. High school students who do not maintain a 2.0 average with no more than one "E" (failure) 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 the 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. Failing grades from the final marking period of the previous year do not count towards ineligibility for the first marking period of the next year if the failing grades occurred when the student was in a school outside of MCPS
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, that would adversely affect the student's grade.
3. An unsatisfactory evaluation in a noncredit-bearing course is not considered failing for student eligibility.
4. In cases where there are extenuating circumstances, procedures may be followed in accordance with Regulation KLA-RA: *Responding to Inquiries and Complaints From the Public*.

Administrative History: New Regulation, August 1986, revised December 1986; revised April 5, 1991; revised October 21, 1993; revised December 18, 1996.