D.C. Everest Senior High School

6500 Alderson Street, Weston, WI 54476

715-359-6561 Fax 715-355-7220

Mrs. Dallas Rennie, Principal
Mr. Luke Stachovak, Assistant Principal
Mr. Michael Krohn, Assistant Principal
Mrs. Brittany Sepnafski, Dean of Students
Mr. Mike Mathies, Athletic Director

To: Casey Nye, School Board

From: Mike Mathies, Athletic Director

Date: November 10, 2026

Re: Academics and Athletic Eligibility

A portion of Board Policy 2430 addresses academic eligibility for participation in athletics. That portion states the following:

> **Students (X) must not have received more than one failing grade in any course at the conclusion of any quarter or semester grading period to be eligible to participate. [X] An exception may be made by the Principal in extenuating circumstances.**

The Athletic Handbook also addresses academic eligibility and is similar to the wording in Policy 2430, but the Handbook adds an Incomplete grade as also being considered the same as a failing grade. The wording in the Athletic Handbook under the academic eligibility section reads as follows:

> **1. If a student has more than one failing grade at the conclusion of any quarter or semester grading period, upon detection, that student will be suspended for a period of 15 school days from athletic competitions or co-curricular activity special events. (Fall Sports - the lesser of 21 calendar days beginning with the date of earliest allowed competition in a sport or one-third of the maximum number of games/meets allowed in a sport). After the 15 or 21 calendar days grades will be run again to determine if they are now eligible. (Middle School LP = D, NE = F)**
>
> **2. If a student has more than one incomplete, or one incomplete and any failing grades, at the conclusion of any quarter or semester grading period, upon detection, that student will be suspended for a period of 15 school days from athletic competitions or co-curricular activity special events. A student regains eligibility immediately if incompletes are made up within two weeks after a grade-reporting period. After the 15 or 21 calendar days grades will be run again to determine if they are now eligible.**

The D.C. Everest Area School District does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, ancestry, creed, marital status, parental status, sexual orientation, sex, (including pregnancy, gender status, change of sex or gender identity), or physical, mental, emotional, or learning disability or any basis protected by state or federal laws. The following staff are designated to receive inquiries regarding the non-discrimination policies: Gina Lehman, Director of Student Services, gilehman@dce.k12.wi.us, or Sarah Trimner, Director of Talent and Culture, strimner@dce.k12.wi.us, both are located at 6100 Alderson Street, Weston, WI 54476 and (715) 359-4221.

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3. If a student is ineligible due to grades, the student will not be excused from school for competition or riding a bus to an away event unless the student is passing all classes.

4. A student serving an academic or conduct suspension may not dress for pre-game, games, meets, or participate in co-curricular activities, meetings, or events.

The WIAA also has a section in their eligibility regulations that covers academics. It is similar to our Board Policy 2430 phrasing:

> **ACADEMICS - A student-athlete must meet school and DPI requirements defining a full-time student and have received no more than one failing grade (including incompletes) in the most recent school issued grade reporting period. Note: Some member schools adopt code and academic policies and other participation requirements which are more stringent than WIAA minimum requirements. In those instances, the school's requirements prevail and must be applied as written.**

Currently I am in my fifth year as Athletic Director. Over the previous 4 years I have had a total of 4 student-athletes that were academically ineligible according to the standard in the Athletic Handbook. All four of these student athletes had 2 - F's on their quarter or semester report card.

Schools in our area do vary from the WIAA terminology for academic eligibility, with the most popular approach being to add a GPA minimum, along with the failing grade wording. "Less than 2 failing grades along with a minimum of a 1.75 GPA." As an example.

Our coaches do an excellent job of staying on top of their athletes and the importance of academic success. Several have higher expectations than what our Athletic Handbook requires. The majority of our teams have a cumulative GPA over 3.00. Grade Guardian is a program that the district has that allows our coaches to receive instant feedback on their athletes academic progress. This way they can be more proactive in helping their athletes maintain academic eligibility. At this time I would recommend status quo with our current academic requirements.

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