

Policy JT: Student Participation In Extracurricular Activities

Status: DRAFT

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Eligibility for Extra-Curricular Participation

It is a privilege, not a right, for a student to participate in extra-curricular activities.

To be eligible for participation, a student must meet the following minimum scholastic requirements at the end of the school year to be eligible for the beginning of the next school year or at the end of the first semester to be eligible for the second semester:

To be eligible at the beginning of the school year, a student must have earned a minimum of 5 credits toward graduation at the end of the previous school year. If a student does not earn at least 5 credits, then the student is not eligible for the first semester of the school year. A student not eligible for the first semester may become eligible for the second semester if the student passes 3 credits during the first semester. A student may only take advantage of this mid-year eligibility clause once during his/her four years of high school eligibility.

Students who are eligible at the beginning of school (first semester) must pass 3 credits during the first semester to remain eligible for the second semester. If a student does not pass 3 credits during the first semester, then the student is not eligible to participate during the second semester.

Students (such as seniors) who are taking 3 or less courses must pass ALL courses in which they are enrolled the first semester to remain eligible for the second semester.

OUT OF SCHOOL ONE OR MORE SEMESTERS: If a student who is eligible for a given semester drops out of school for one or more semesters, he/she is then ineligible until he/she passes 3 out of four subjects in a semester. A student who is eligible for a given semester cannot drop out of school during the semester or remain out of school for one or more semesters and then be eligible for the next semester that the student attends. (Source: Mississippi High School Activities Association)

In addition to meeting all MS High School Activities Association requirements, all students participating in athletics, cheer, dance, choir, and/or band will be subject to random drug tests as provided in the Student Drug Testing Policy.

Seventh and Eighth Grade Participation: Pupils in the seventh grade and eighth grades participating in school extra-curricular activities, must pass their grade level by achieving at least a grade of 70 in the four basic courses of Math, Science, English and Social Studies the previous year in order to be eligible to participate during the present year.

A pupil in the seventh and eighth grades, who is not eligible at the beginning of the school year, may become eligible the second semester by maintaining a 70 average in the four basic courses the first semester.

Summer School Credits: An accredited summer school shall be considered as an extension of the second semester of the school session, and credits earned in such a school may be considered in determining the scholastic eligibility of students. The completion of a full unit, major subject, during a summer school shall be classed as passing one major subject for one unit of credit and not as passing two major subjects for one half unit each. Accredited correspondence courses may be accepted for establishing athletic eligibility provided the course has been completed and recorded by the opening of school.

Students who choose to participate in extra-curricular activities must be classified as full-time students and must work within the framework of four consecutive years of eligibility after entering the ninth grade regardless of when they began to participate.

Students who have been tested, screened and placed in a special education program with an Individual Education Program (IEP) must make satisfactory progress (a passing grade in every subject required in the IEP) in order to be eligible for participation in extra-curricular activities. If the student is in a regular diploma program, taking courses which culminate in Carnegie units, he/she must successfully pass those units with an average of 70 as well as the special education units. If the student is in a certificate program, he/she must be passing that course work. In order to establish an entry point into the system, a date the student "enters the ninth grade" will be established.

No student can represent the school in any way or participate in any school-related activity unless he/she has been in attendance at school at least the majority of the student's school day. If a student is exempt from an exam, he/she

is not considered absent from school.

For these standards, "Extra-curricular" is defined as organization-sponsored student activities which require administrative provision and student involvement outside the time allocation for instruction. This would specifically apply to organized practice or competition which requires additional inputs of students' time outside the normal school day. Extra-curricular activities will be those activities presently governed by the Mississippi High School Activities Association. The Mississippi State Board of Education requests the Mississippi High School Activities Association to include this standard in its regulations and to monitor compliance with the standard.

Reference: Handbook, Mississippi High School Activities Association, Inc.
