

1 **Browning Public Schools**

2 Policy #3520

3 Policy Name: *Academic Eligibility*

4 **Regulation:** -----

5 **Montana High School Association Policies**

6 All students participating in extra-curricular activities at Browning High School must meet the academic  
7 eligibility and enrollment requirements in Browning Public Schools in addition to the rules and  
8 regulations stated in the Montana High School Association (MHSA) Handbook.

9 **MHSA statements are as follows: MHSA Handbook Article 2, Section (2) Eligibility.**

10 “To be eligible to participate in an Association Contest, a student must be regularly enrolled in school,  
11 must be in regular attendance from the enrollment date, and received a passing grade in at least twenty  
12 periods of prepared class work or its equivalent in the last previous semester at the school where the  
13 student participates...”

14  
15 Interpretation of the above Article is that students will be enrolled in at least two credits of classes  
16 while participating in Extra Curricular activities at Browning High School.

17 **MHSA Handbook Article 2, Section (2), Academic Eligibility**

18 “To be eligible to participate in an Association Contest, a student must have received a passing grade in at  
19 least twenty periods of prepared work per week or its equivalent during the last preceding semester in  
20 which he/she was in attendance. If a student is assigned an “incomplete” or a “condition” in a subject,  
21 he/she has not received a passing grade in this subject. The record at the end of the semester is final and  
22 scholastic deficiencies may not be “made up” in any way. This section shall not apply to students  
23 committed to Pine Hills School or to students assigned to MHSA interscholastic activities as part of their  
24 Special Education Individual Education Plan (I.E.P.).”

25 Interpretation of the above Article is that students must earn 2 credits during the semester prior to the  
26 sport season in order to participate in a particular sport. Passing four classes worth 1/2 credit per semester  
27 will meet this standard. P.E. and Office Aide classes are worth 1/4 credit per semester.

28 **MHSA Handbook Article 2, Section (15), Award Rule**

29 “No award exceeding fifty dollars \$100.00 in value shall be given per event in any MHSA sanctioned  
30 sport or in any MHSA sanctioned interscholastic activity by a member school, by any person or by an  
31 organization to a student in recognition of that student’s achievement or participation in any  
32 interscholastic activity. An event is defined as a sports camp, an invitational tournament/meet, a post  
33 season recognition (i.e. sports banquet), or fund raiser or similar function. Cash cannot be awarded.”

34 Violation of this rule will render the student ineligible in the MHSA sponsored sport or activity for the  
35 student received the award. The Board of Control will follow the same procedure for restoring the  
36 eligibility status as provided in the last paragraph of the Amateur Rule, Article II, Section (16) of the  
37 Handbook.

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1 **Policy**

2 It is the expectation of Browning School District #9 that all of its students will experience success in all  
3 academic and extracurricular endeavors in which they participate. *School District #9 also recognizes the*  
4 *positive impact of extra-curricular activities on students' mental health and social development.* The  
5 efforts of all School District #9 employees will be focused on supporting the efforts of its students at  
6 achieving excellence in the academic and extracurricular areas.

7 Browning Public Schools has implemented the following Academic Eligibility Policy for students, grade  
8 6-12 concerning participation in all Extra-curricular club/sport activities as listed in the Browning  
9 Activities Handbook. The goal of this policy is to encourage academic excellence and foster long range  
10 goal setting by the students of Browning Public Schools. It is important that students and parents or  
11 guardians understand that the primary mission of the school is to provide an academic education to its  
12 students and the privilege of participation in extra-curricular activities will be based upon achievement in  
13 the classroom.

14 All activities involving out-of-district trips will be covered under this policy. Attendance at concerts,  
15 dances, sporting events, etc. sponsored by the school will not be covered under the following policy. For  
16 the purposes of this policy, days referred to will be considered to be calendar days.

17 Weekly *Bi-weekly* feedback will still be given to the student concerning their academic standing.

18 Browning Public School students, (Grades 6-12), should meet *bi-weekly* eligibility *by having a GPA of*  
19 *2.0 or better.* ~~passing all classes to be eligible to participate in Extracurricular Activities as defined herein.~~  
20 ~~Students Failing two or fewer classes will be allowed to participate upon meeting the following weekly~~  
21 ~~eligibility requirements: *A student whose GPA is lower than a 2.0, but is passing all of their classes is*~~  
22 ~~*still eligible.*~~

23 **ACTIVITIES ELIGIBILITY:** ~~A weekly Eligibility list based on each student's in-progress grades shall~~  
24 ~~be generated each Friday at 2:00 p.m. The eligibility period will begin the following Monday morning,~~  
25 ~~and will run for one week Monday through Sunday. A student who receives ONE "F" on the weekly~~  
26 ~~eligibility checklist will be on probation and can practice and compete until the next grade check. If, at the~~  
27 ~~next weekly grade check, the student has at least one "F" the student immediately becomes ineligible to~~  
28 ~~participate in competition, but can practice. The student will remain ineligible for competition until he or~~  
29 ~~she is passing all the classes at the time of the weekly grade check. If the ineligible student has no "F"~~  
30 ~~grades on the next grade report, he or she becomes eligible on the Monday following their week of~~  
31 ~~ineligibility. A question comes up every year "If a student is declared ineligible but gets their grades up~~  
32 ~~by Friday can the student play Friday night and on Saturday?" The answer is no; however, if teacher is~~  
33 ~~unavailable for grading, the student can play at the discretion of administration. Eligibility runs Monday~~  
34 ~~through Sunday regardless if a student gets their grades up at any time during the ineligible week. *A bi-*~~  
35 ~~*weekly eligibility list is generated every other Friday at 2pm. The first time a student is identified as*~~  
36 ~~*ineligible, they will be allowed to practice and compete, provided that they provide proof of attending*~~  
37 ~~*tutoring sessions from 3:30pm to 4:30pm on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday. If a student is identified as*~~  
38 ~~*ineligible a second consecutive time the student becomes ineligible to compete until they are able to*~~  
39 ~~*provide an updated grade report which shows that they are eligible by having at least a GPA of 2.0.*~~

40 ~~A student who receives more than one "F" on a weekly list shall become ineligible immediately for~~  
41 ~~competition and will remain ineligible until he or she is passing all classes at the time of the weekly~~  
42 ~~checklist. *After being ineligible for two bi-weekly eligibility checks, the focus will be to help the student*~~  
43 ~~*maintain the 2.0 GPA weekly, also student will need to report to tutoring on Monday, Tuesday and*~~

1 Thursday from 3:30pm to 4:30pm and provide documentation of attendance in the tutoring program from  
2 an adult BHS staff tutor.

3 **CORRECTION PROCEDURE**

4 Any student who believes that they are marked ineligible incorrectly must meet with the teacher and  
5 provide evidence to correct the error. The teacher must fill out and sign a note to the coach/sponsor  
6 stating the error and its correction. The student must then get approval from the principal who will also  
7 sign the note to verify approval. The student must then give the note to the coach who will keep it for the  
8 duration of the season for future reference.

9 **Activities included in this policy follow:** All activities as defined by MHSA. ~~Any school sanctioned~~  
10 ~~clubs inadvertently omitted and new ones added to the school program will also be included in the~~  
11 ~~application of this policy.~~

12 **Extra-Curricular Activity Participation Guidelines:**

13 1. For a student to participate in practice or a contest/event, he/she must have been in attendance at school  
14 that day, (Monday through Friday) or have an absence excused prior to 4:30 on the day of the activity. If  
15 student is absent AP (Absent-Parent called in) the student can still practice with no consequence. If  
16 unexcused, student can still practice with consequences from the coach.

17 2. Students who transfer to Browning Public Schools during a sport season, but prior to the divisional  
18 tournament or first playoff game date, will be considered eligible to participate if they are eligible  
19 according to MHSA standards. The grades that transfer in with the student must meet the eligibility  
20 criteria of Browning Public Schools. The student must also meet the MHSA 10-day practice requirement  
21 before participating in a contest/event.

22 3. Students who are ineligible for a semester according to MHSA criteria will be allowed to practice with  
23 the team while ineligible and compete the first Monday after the new semester begins, provided the  
24 student becomes eligible according to MHSA criteria. The Browning Public Schools eligibility policy  
25 will apply to these students. 1997-98 MHSA Handbook, Article 2, Section (17).

26 **Cross Reference:** MSHA Handbook  
27 Browning Activities Handbook

28 **Legal Reference:** 20-5-201 MCA Duties and Sanctions

29 **Policy History:**

30 Adopted on: 11/25/97

31 Amended on: 1/12/99, 11/30/99, 3/14/00, 3/11/14, 8/3/15, 7/11/17, 2/12/19, 11/30/21

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