

EXTRACURRICULAR AND CO-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

The School Board recognizes that extracurricular and co-curricular activities enrich the educational and social development and experiences of students and shall annually adopt a plan for student participation in extra/co-curricular activities which does not compromise the integrity and purpose of the educational program. Participation in extracurricular and co-curricular activities is a privilege. The students are ambassadors of our schools in these competitions therefore academic eligibility, good grades, and consistent attendance is the rule not the exception.

The District shall publish a coaches' and sponsors' (club) handbook, which contains information about responsibilities, programs, sportsmanship, insurance, fees, and procedures. Individual elementary and secondary school handbooks may contain additional information.

1. Academic Eligibility Requirements for Practice and Participation

- a) All District high school student athletes may practice but will not be allowed to play or travel while academically ineligible. Students in the process of obtaining eligibility through the Alaska School Activities Association (ASAA) waiver process may tryout and practice pending the outcome of the waiver request.
- b) To be eligible to participate in extracurricular activities; all second semester freshmen, sophomores, juniors as well as seniors who are not on track to graduate must have passed at least five (5) semester units of credit, or the equivalent, toward graduation, during the previous semester. At the end of each quarter all students must have a 2.0 grade point average and comply with all other minimum ASAA requirements. Seniors who are on track to graduate must successfully have completed five (5) courses or four (4) courses the previous spring for early fall sports.
- c) Second semester seniors who are on track to graduate must be enrolled in a minimum of four (4) semester units of credit, toward graduation, during the previous semester or equivalent, with a 2.0 GPA.
- d) All courses needed for eligibility need to specifically lead to meeting MSBSD graduation requirement. Only one Pass/Fail course of Student Aide is allowed each semester or equivalent, for Juniors and Seniors in good academic standing only. Community Service credits are not acceptable.
- e) For the purpose of this section, academic deficiencies may be made up through successful completion of correspondence courses or summer school.
- f) The eligibility period will begin on or before the sixth working day after the end of the previous quarter (AR 5121a). Each school site will determine its

own specific eligibility date within that guideline. The grades must be posted on the computerized report card by that date.

- g) Students making up grades from 2nd semester during the summer must have an official record of the final grade and credit prior to the first academic contact day. If a student fails to have summer work completed, graded, recorded, and confirmed by the school administrator prior to the first academic contact day, then the student will be ineligible to practice/participate in activities during the first academic quarter or the equivalent.
- h) Students making up a credit (to meet the requirement of BP 6145.1b) from 2nd semester during the summer must have an official record of the final grade and credit, prior to the first academic contact day. If a student fails to have summer work completed, graded, recorded and confirmed by the school administrator by the first academic contact day, the student will be ineligible to practice/participate in activities during the first academic quarter or the equivalent.
- i) A grade of incomplete is considered as not passing until the incomplete is changed on the official school records.
- j) Private school, out of district correspondence, Mat-Su Central School, and non-traditional school students must meet the same time frame as regular students.
- k) Athletes must adhere to the ASAA Citizenship Rule and Controlled Substance, Alcohol, and Tobacco Policy (Bylaw Article 12, Section 8).
- l) An athlete must meet the above requirements to be considered eligible. All eligible athlete names must be on the master eligibility list that is sent in to ASAA by the school.

2. Eligibility Requirements Maximum Participation

- a) No student enrolled in a four-year high school may participate in more than four (4) seasons in any specific interscholastic activity. No student enrolled in a three (3) year high school may participate in more than three (3) seasons in any specific interscholastic activity.
- b) Participation in a single interscholastic contest shall be considered as one (1) season of participation in that activity.
- c) Each student will have eight (8) consecutive semesters or equivalent of eligibility after they begin grade nine. (No fifth year seniors will be permitted without approval from ASAA).
- d) A student who becomes nineteen (19) years of age on or before August 1 shall be ineligible for interscholastic competition.

- e) No student shall be allowed to participate in any extra curricular activities beyond the season in which they graduate.

3. Students Retained

- a) Loss of eligibility: A student held back in sixth, seventh, or eighth grade for athletic purposes shall lose his/her fourth year of high school eligibility.
- b) Loss of third and fourth years: A student held back for two years in the sixth, seventh, or eighth grade for athletic purposes shall lose both his/her third and fourth years of eligibility after entering the ninth grade.

4. Exchange Students

District students involved in exchange/travel programs are eligible for interscholastic sports participation upon return to their home school when a request for waiver of the Semester Credit Rule is made to the Mat-Su Borough School District and the Alaska Schools Activities Association, and waived by both the Superintendent/Chief School Administrator, or designee, and the Executive Director of ASAA. Such students must otherwise be eligible by all other rules, i.e. not graduated from a secondary school, not over age, and must have passed four subjects the last semester in attendance in their Alaska high school.

5. Waivers of Eligibility

A student who has been determined to be ineligible to participate in extracurricular and co-curricular activities under one or more of the eligibility rules may request a waiver.

- a) Request Procedures: A request for a waiver must be directed by the student to the school's building administrator. If the building administrator upon review of the waiver request finds that the request is appropriate, the building administrator shall forward the request to the Superintendent/Chief School Administrator or designee along with a memorandum explaining the reasons why the administrator believes the waiver request should be granted. If a building administrator finds that a waiver is not appropriate the request will not be submitted to the Superintendent/Chief School Administrator's office.
- b) Review by the Superintendent/Chief School Administrator: Upon receipt of the waiver request, the Superintendent/Chief School Administrator, or designee, shall review the waiver request to determine whether any additional information is necessary. If additional information is necessary, the Superintendent, or designee, shall request the building administrator to supply it. The Superintendent/Chief School Administrator, or designee, shall render the decision as expeditiously as possible after receiving the waiver request and any additional requested information.
- c) Guidelines for Consideration: To assist students and schools to decide whether to request a waiver in specific circumstances, the following apply:

- 1) Except in unusual circumstances and for good cause shown, requests for waivers of standards of eligibility involving semesters of enrollment will not be granted.
- 2) The Superintendent/Chief School Administrator will not grant eligibility in any case in which the asserted hardship is the sole result of knowing conduct by the student or his or her parents or guardian which had the effect of causing the hardship.
- 3) Ignorance of any standard is not sufficient reason for waiving a standard.
- 4) Waiver requests are subject to ASAA rules, policies, and procedures. Under certain circumstances waiver requests must also be submitted to ASAA for approval.

6. Designation of Athletic Teams and Sports

a) The School Board recognizes:

- 1) Maintaining fairness in athletic opportunities for women is an important district interest;**
- 2) requiring the designation of separate sex-specific athletic teams or sports is necessary to maintain fairness in athletic opportunities for women;**
- 3) significant biological and physiological differences between males and females, including greater strength, speed, and endurance capabilities among males on average, provide a competitive advantage to male athletes in sports; and**
- 4) having separate sex-specific teams furthers efforts to promote sex equality and that discrimination against women and girls in sports is counter to that effort.**

b) It is the intent of the School Board to preserve an even playing field in school athletic programs within the District, to maintain opportunities for female athletes to demonstrate their strength, skills, and athletic abilities, and to provide female athletes with opportunities to obtain recognition and accolades, college scholarships, and the numerous other long-term benefits that result from participating and competing in athletic endeavors.

- ### **c) Each school within the District, whose students or teams compete against other schools, must designate each school-sponsored athletic team or sport a:**
- 1. male, men, or boys team or sport;**
 - 2. female, women, or girls team or sport; or**
 - 3. coeducational or mixed team or sport.**

d) A student who participates in an athletic team or sport designated female, women, or girls must be female, based on the participant's biological sex as either female or male, as designated at the participant's birth. The biological sex listed on a participant's birth certificate may be relied on to establish the participant's biological sex designated at the participant's birth if the sex designated on the birth certificate was designated at or near the time of the participant's birth.

"school" means an elementary, junior high, or secondary school.

MATANUSKA SUSITNA BOROUGH SCHOOL DISTRICT

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