

July 25, 2024


AUTHORIZE THE COMMENCEMENT OF THE PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD FOR THE ADOPTION OF THE NEW POLICY ON SCHOLASTIC ELIGIBILITY FOR INTERSCHOLASTIC SPORTS AND ACTIVITIES

THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER RECOMMENDS:

That the Board authorize the commencement of the Public Comment Period from July 26, 2024 to August 26, 2024 for the Policy described in the disposition table below. Pursuant to Board Rule 2-6(c), the Board must authorize the commencement of the Public Comment Period.

Current Policy Section/ Current Policy Title	New Policy Section/ New Policy Title	Description of Revision/Disposition
Board Report 12-0822-PO2, Policy 605.6 No-Pass, No-Play	Scholastic Eligibility for Interscholastic Sports and Activities	<p>Rescind 605.6, No-Pass, No-Play and adopt a new policy on Scholastic Eligibility for Interscholastic Sports and Activities</p> <p>This policy was amended as required by Board Rule 2-6's biennial review process. The new policy will not carry the cliché of No Pass/No Play, but students will be required to meet a standard that will align with the credits earned necessary for graduation. With the current NCAA GPA standard of 2.3, the application of a GPA contingency in the policy must be revisited to align with an industry standard.</p> <p>-The new policy determines 3 credits (6 classes) as the requirement for eligibility (past and present semester) rather than 2 ½ in the past semester and 3 ½ in the present semester for the current policy.</p> <p>-The academic mediation component consistent in both the present and recommended policy (Individual Study Plan - ISP) will now additionally be used in determining "present semester" eligibility (week to week).</p>

Approved as to Legal Form: 

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Pedro Martinez
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**RESCIND BOARD REPORT 12-0822-PO2, NO-PASS, NO-PLAY
AND ADOPT A NEW POLICY ON SCHOLASTIC ELIGIBILITY FOR
INTERSCHOLASTIC SPORTS AND ACTIVITIES**

THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER RECOMMENDS:

The Board rescind its current No-Pass/No-Play Scholastic Eligibility Policy, Board Report 12-0822-PO2 and adopt a new scholastic eligibility policy, named **Scholastic Eligibility for Interscholastic Sports and Activities**.

BACKGROUND: The first adopted No-Pass/No Play eligibility policy was Board Report 99-0421-PO3. The primary eligibility contingencies for this policy consisted of a student earning 2.0 credits during a semester as well as maintaining a 2.0 cumulative GPA. This policy was updated with Board Report 12-0822-PO2 to reconcile with the amended IHSA scholastic eligibility policy increased to 2 ½ credits earned as the eligibility contingency from 2.0 credits earned. It is recommended that the 2012 policy be rescinded and a new policy be adopted for the following reasons: (1) The context of the current policy is based on a 2 ½ or 3.0 credit/course load per semester, whereas the current normal course load for students is 3 ½ credits per semester. (2) The primary purpose of the CPS Board Report 12-0822- PO-2 (**No-Pass/ No-Play Policy**) requirements were to satisfy Section 34-18.17 of the Illinois School Code. It was also designed to utilize the vehicle of athletic participation to encourage academic performance and promote graduation eligible students. However, the standard of the current policy allows for students to be eligible for athletic participation yet potentially being or remaining off track for graduation. (3) The 2.0 minimum GPA contingency was not an absolute requirement for eligibility, but rather allowed conditional eligibility for students that did not meet that standard through an individual study plan (ISP) or school-based MTSS measures. With the current NCAA GPA standard of 2.3, the application of a GPA contingency in the policy must be revisited.

PURPOSE: The purpose of this policy is to enumerate uniform scholastic eligibility requirements for students in grades 9 through 12 who wish to participate in Illinois High School Association/Chicago Public Schools sponsored interscholastic athletics and activities. This policy is established to satisfy Section 34-18.17 of the Illinois School Code which requires the Board to establish a uniform policy that precludes high school students who fail to satisfy certain academic performance standards from participating in athletics and extracurricular activities.

POLICY TEXT:

I. Definitions

- A. Illinois High School Association/Chicago Public Schools sponsored interscholastic athletics and activities: Interscholastic sports and activities offered by the Illinois High School Association (IHSA), as well as CPS program offerings that culminate in citywide competition.
- B. Extracurricular is used to describe extra, competitive activities that can be done by the students in a school but that are not part of the regular schedule of classes. Extracurricular activities are optional and not included as part of extended day activities designed to improve student connectedness and wellbeing.
- C. Credit Standard: The fixed number of ¼ (or the nearest round number) of the credits needed to graduate from high school. (For the 2024-2025 school year, the number of credits needed to graduate high school is 24. The credit standard for the 2024-2025 school year is **3 (6 classes)** and remains as long as the number of credits required for high school graduation is 24.

- D. Individual Study Plan (ISP): An executed agreement approved by the school principal, that is between school personnel and students/guardians pertaining to students with a cumulative GPA less than 2.3, or that have only passed 2 ½ credits/commonly 5 classes, in the previous semester. The ISP is a weekly plan to promote academic support for students participating in interscholastic sports, additionally providing the opportunity for them to maintain scholastic eligibility.
- E. Conditional Eligibility: Eligibility granted to students by the school principal (through a designee) upon the completion of the terms of a formally established Individual Study Plan.
- F. Week of Competition: A week of competition is defined to be from Monday to Sunday.

II. Applicability

Students in grades 9 through 12 who wish to participate in IHSA/CPS sponsored interscholastic athletics and activities must satisfy the following listed scholastic requirements.

A. **Past Semester Standing**

1. A student must have earned credits equal to or greater than the **credit standard** (for SY25, 3 credits, commonly 6 classes, based on 24 credits to graduate) in the previous semester to be eligible for interscholastic competition in the present semester.
 - A student that only passed 2 ½ credits/commonly 5 classes in the previous semester can be considered for *conditional eligibility* during the present semester.
2. The student must have a cumulative grade point average (GPA) of 2.3 at the beginning of the semester. The most favorable GPA (weighted or unweighted) can be used to determine the GPA.

Conditional eligibility during the present semester can be granted to students who:

- Have only earned 2 ½ credits instead of the required 3 credits in the previous semester
 - Have a cumulative grade point average less than 2.3 while earning at least 2 ½ credits in the previous semester
3. Credits earned in summer school may be applied to previous semester requirements.
 4. Credits earned in recovery classes in the present semester can only be applied to eligibility for the next semester. Progress in recovery classes does not affect present semester eligibility.
 5. A beginning freshman who has never attended any other secondary school will be eligible at once if entering at the opening of the semester. This entry must be prior to the 11th day of school.
 6. If the student has been enrolled and in attendance at the school ten days or more during any semester, the student will be counted as having been in attendance during said semester. If the student has been out of school for a semester or more, the previous semester will be understood to mean the last semester during which the student was a member of a high school for at least ten days.
 7. Students that are homeschooled must be *enrolled* at the member high school; this includes taking and passing at least one course at the member school each semester.

B. Present Semester Record

1. The student must be enrolled in at least 2 ½ credit hours/commonly 5 classes, in order to be considered for scholastic eligibility in the present semester.
2. The student must have passing grades according to the **credit standard** (3 credits based on 24 credits to graduate/commonly 6 classes) checked every week by the Principal or designee. A student that does not meet the credit standard in a given week is ineligible for the next week of competition.
 - School principals reserve the right to establish and formally communicate to parents and students more strict local present semester standards, with the exception of requiring a present semester GPA greater than 2.0.
 - School principals reserve the right to allow for a concession to the CPS present semester standard in keeping with the current IHSA standard (2 ½ credits/5 classes) exclusively for students who are only enrolled in 6 classes.

For purposes of scholastic eligibility, “passing” shall be determined by a student’s grades, school attendance and attendance in class and conduct during the school day.

- a) A student who accumulates two (2) or more unexcused absences from any class enrolled or from school in a school week during the season shall be ineligible for the next week of competition.
- b) A student who is issued a suspension (in school/out of school) for misconduct shall be ineligible for competition and practice during the term of the suspension or loss.
3. A student considered for conditional eligibility must establish and execute an *Individual Study Plan (ISP)* in order to become eligible. If a student fails to satisfy the weekly requirements of their ISP during the competition season, the student’s eligibility to participate must be withdrawn for the present week.
4. Eligibility will be determined and approved every week, prior to the next week of competition by the high school principal or principal designee.

C. Interscholastic Sports

Additional eligibility procedures may apply to students participating in interscholastic sports that are governed by the Chicago Public Schools Athletics Constitution and Bylaws (<http://policy.cps.k12.il.us/download.aspx?ID=26>).

D. Accountability

The Principal (or Principal’s Designee) is responsible for the certification of student-athlete eligibility.

The Office of Sports Administration will:

- Review and make a final determination regarding issues of non-compliance according to the Chicago Public Schools Athletics Constitution and Bylaws.
- Provide *Guidelines for Scholastic Eligibility* including best practices of tracking eligibility and strategy for implementing Individual Study Plans for students.
- Approve the conditional eligibility of students requested by school principals (or principal

designees) according to the policy.

- E. The Effective Date for this Board Policy is the start of the second semester of the 2024-2025 school year.**

LEGAL REFERENCES: 105 ILCS 5/34-18.17