

Eligibility: Extra- & Co-Curricular Participation RSU 9 recognizes the vital contributions that extra- and co-curricular activities make to the academic, social, emotional, and personal development of our students, and the district strongly encourages all students to participate in the diverse athletic and co-curricular programs offered. Through their involvement in teams, clubs, and peer groups, students learn essential life skills, assume personal responsibility, strengthen character traits, acquire leadership abilities, and build lifelong relationships. Students who elect to play sports, participate in student governance, or join a school group, club, or team make a voluntary commitment to these pursuits and earn the privilege of representing their school and community.

Student participation in extra- and co-curricular activities is viewed as an integral component of the learning process, and for this reason our eligibility policy is intended to be motivational in design rather than disciplinary. Yet while extra- and co-curricular activities complement and enhance the academic program, school attendance must remain focused, first and foremost, on learning the knowledge, skills, and habits of work that every graduate needs to succeed in adult life. The district's eligibility policy for extra- and co-curricular programs is designed to ensure that academic learning and achievement remain the top priority for every student.

A. Communicating Eligibility Guidelines and Requirements

The athletic administrator, under the direction of the principal, shall be responsible for ensuring that accurate, up-to-date information concerning the eligibility policy is communicated to coaches, activity advisors, teachers, students, parents, and the public. This information may be shared through the following: (1) published annually in the student and family handbook, (2) posted on the district and high school websites, (3) explained in the Eligibility Handbook, and (4) discussed in relevant student and parent meetings offered throughout the school year.

As soon as it is practical and feasible, the Board expects the principal and athletic administrator to inform all students and their families of any modifications made to the district's academic eligibility policy, which extends to all applicable changes in relevant state statutes, rules, or regulations.

B. Eligibility Guidelines

The following policy applies to all extra- and co-curricular activities offered, organized, or sanctioned by the district, including:

- i . Games, competitions, tournaments, scrimmages, performances, debates, and exhibitions;
2. Practice sessions, rehearsals, training opportunities, team meetings, club gatherings, or other planning and preparatory activities;
3. Tryouts, auditions, interviews, and other selective activities, such as campaigns and elections for student governance; and

4. Elected or appointed leadership roles, including team captains, student councils, student governance, or other student offices, such as participation on a school board or leadership committee.

By design, this policy complies with the eligibility policies and requirements for interscholastic athletics maintained by the Maine Principals' Association and all applicable state statutes, rules, and regulations.

To be eligible for participation in extra- and co-curricular activities, the student (homeschool students are included), during the preceding grading period, must have (a) been fully enrolled and is currently enrolled as a full-time student (enrolled in six-credit bearing courses at the high-school level); (b) demonstrated proficiency on the school's academic and habits-of-work standards. This includes proficiency toward graduation, as defined by state statute, must be demonstrated in the content areas and the Guiding Principles of the Maine Learning Results.

Eligibility for fall extra- and co-curricular activities will be based on demonstrated academic performance during the fourth quarter of the preceding academic year, to include being proficient in the fourth quarter, the end of semester, and the end of year. In accordance with the Maine Principals' Association policy, incoming ninth-grade students are exempt from fourth-quarter eligibility requirements. Incoming sixth grade students are also exempt.

All students who have demonstrated proficiency in each course to include the content standards and the graduation standards and in the ME Guiding Principles (and habits of work) during the preceding grading period will be considered eligible to participate in the extra- and co-curricular activities offered by RSU 9.

For those students who did not demonstrate proficiency during the preceding grading period, the student must meet at least two of the following criteria in all current courses or learning experiences to be considered eligible:

1. The student is demonstrating proficiency on a majority of the academic standards.
2. The student is demonstrating proficiency on a majority of the habits-of-work standards.
3. The student is participating in an intervention program—which includes all applicable in-school, out-of-school, and vacation intervention programs, including summer school—designed to get the student on track to demonstrating proficiency on all expected standards by the end of a course, learning experience, or grade level.

C. Probation and Intervention Process

Students who are determined to be ineligible shall be placed on probation and offered support / intervention assistance. The district believes that students on probation should be given (1) multiple opportunities to meet eligibility requirements in ways

that address the student's distinct learning needs and (2) multiple intervention options that allow for an accelerated reinstatement of eligibility if the student is able to demonstrate significant and measurable progress toward proficiency.

All students placed on probation will be monitored by the athletic administrator and their teachers.

The ineligible student will be given additional time to demonstrate progress and satisfy the eligibility criteria. Please see the Eligibility Levels Chart.

If the student satisfies the eligibility criteria during the probationary period, the student will be reinstated for full participation in extra- and co-curricular activities at the end of the two-week period.

Students suspended for contract violations or ineligible students may NOT join teams after the date of the first regularly scheduled athletic contest. This policy applies to "cut sports" only and is intended to ensure that spots on team rosters are not being reserved for currently ineligible students. This does not apply if teams are unable to fill rosters with available students who initially try out.

D. Students Requiring Special Services

For students identified for special services, the student's individualized education program (IEP) will be used to determine eligibility. Guidelines for determining eligibility will be implemented by school administrators and subject to review by the superintendent.

E. Transfer Students

For students who transfer into the district, academic eligibility will be determined by the principal and athletic administrator and will be based on the last reported grades earned during the previous grading period at the student's sending school.

Legal Reference - None

Cross References

IKF: Graduation Requirements

IKA: Grading and Reporting System

IHBG-R Homeschooling Participation in School Program
Eligibility Chart

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Eligibility Levels

Levels	Academics	Habits of Work ME Guiding Principles	Supports	Probationary
Level 1	Incomplete	Passing HOW in the same class.	Student tagging and/or meeting with teacher; plan created to complete work.	Moves to bi-weekly watch list.
Level 2	2 + Incompletes in 2 + classes and/or a failure	Passing HOW in the same class.	Teacher tagging; attendance at Extended-Day Program at least once per week, with personalized intervention plan created.	Moves to bi-weekly watch list. Attendance & participation determined by Intervention Team.
Level 3	2 + Failures	HOW in same class demonstrates ineffective.	Teacher tagging; attendance at Extended-Day Program at when offered, with personalized intervention plan created; supervised lunch & study hall for academic supports.	Moves to bi-weekly watch list. No participation.
			An appeals process with the Athletic Director / Club Advisor &/or Principal is available in extenuating circumstances.	

6/19/17