



No Pass No Play

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I. Introduction

Extracurricular activities and interscholastic athletics can play a meaningful role in the life of a high school student. These activities are associated with skills that are valued in the workplace, but are not necessarily assessed in the classroom: teamwork, self-confidence, the ability to succeed in a competitive situation.¹ Research shows that student participation in extracurricular activities and athletics benefit student learning. For example, participation in these types of activities is associated with increases in math and science test scores.² The desire to participate in sports and extracurricular activities can play a strong role in encouraging students to attend school and engage in class.

“No Pass No Play” refers to policies in states that define eligibility for extracurricular activities and athletics based on academic performance, attendance and student behavior. Currently, 16 states have No Pass No Play policies that affect students statewide. The majority of these policies (11 of 16) are based solely on academic performance.

The following tables in Part II list each of the 16 states with a statewide No Pass No Play policy (in other states, most districts have similar policies). The tables are divided into two sections: Table A lists those states where the state sets the framework for eligibility policies, while Table B lists the states where the district is required to formulate the policy. The tables contain the following information:

- **Coverage and definitions:** This section outlines which activities (extracurricular, cocurricular, athletic) are covered by the state’s No Pass No Play policy and how those activities are defined. Eight states explicitly define the activities covered.
- **District role:** This section describes what role the state plays in setting the specific parameters of the eligibility policies. Some districts are afforded wide latitude while others are given less room to tailor the policies. Most states allow districts to exceed their eligibility requirements.
- **No Pass No Play criteria:** This section describes the eligibility criteria considered in the policies. These criteria range from academic performance to attendance to student behavior. Every state bases eligibility on academic performance, and of those, five states include attendance and/or student behavior criteria as well.
- **Period of ineligibility:** This section describes how long a student must wait once ruled ineligible. This ranges from three weeks to two semesters.
- **Notes/other:** This section provides other information related to the states’ policies.

Part III provides the states’ criteria used to determine eligibility. The language in part III is taken directly from state statute and/or departmental rules and regulations.

II. Table A- No Pass No Play: State-Set Parameters

State	Coverage and Definitions	District Role	No Pass No Play Criteria			Period of Ineligibility	Notes/Other
			Academic	Attendance	Conduct		
Alabama ALA. ADMIN. CODE r. 290-3-1-.02	<p><i>Extracurricular activities associated with athletics:</i> Defined as those recognized and sanctioned by the Alabama High School Athletic association.</p> <p><i>Other extracurricular activities:</i> Defined as those that are sanctioned by a public school which are not related to a student's academic requirements or success in a course.</p>	Districts may impose more strict eligibility criteria than the state's, but must use the state's criteria as a minimum.	X			2 semesters	Students beginning the academic year eligible remain eligible for the entire academic year.
Arizona ARIZ. ADMIN. CODE R7-2-808	<p><i>Extracurricular activities:</i> Defined as all interscholastic activities which are of a competitive nature and involve more than one school where a championship, winner, or rating is determined; and all those endeavors of a continuous and ongoing nature for which no credit is earned in meeting graduation or promotional requirements and are organized, planned, and sponsored by the district consistent with district policy.</p>	Districts individually establish the criteria for a "passing grade" and "satisfactory progress toward graduation" required for participation.	X			9 weeks (or less)	Districts must offer educational support services to students ruled ineligible.
California CAL. EDUC. CODE	<p><i>Extracurricular activities:</i> Defined as programs that are supervised or financed by the school district,</p>	Districts may impose more strict eligibility criteria than the state's, but must use	X			District determines	Districts may adopt a probation policy that cannot exceed one

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			Academic	Attendance	Conduct		
§ 35160.5	<p>where pupils participating in the program represent the school district, where pupils exercise some degree of freedom in either the selection, planning or control of the program and where the programs include both preparation for performance and performance before an audience or spectators. These activities are not part of the regular curriculum, are not graded, do not offer credit and do not take place during class time.</p> <p><i>Cocurricular activities:</i> Defined as a program that may be associated with the curriculum in a regular classroom.</p>	the state's criteria as a minimum.					semester. Probationary students must be evaluated weekly.
<p>Florida</p> <p>FLA. STAT. CH. 1006.15</p>	<p><i>Extracurricular activities:</i> Defined as any school-authorized or education-related activity occurring during or outside the regular instructional school day.</p>	Districts may impose eligibility criteria other than the state's, but may not reduce access to home school students.	X		X	1 grading period (not explicitly defined)	Students whose cumulative GPA falls below 2.0 must enter into an academic performance contract which must, as a minimum, require the student complete summer school.
<p>Iowa</p> <p>IOWA ADMIN. CODE r. 281-36.15</p>	<p><i>Interscholastic extracurricular activities</i> (not defined)</p>	Districts may impose more strict eligibility criteria than the state's, but must use the state's criteria as a minimum.	X			20 consecutive school days (4 consecutive weeks for baseball/softball)	Districts must offer educational support services to students fail or are in risk of failing.

State	Coverage and Definitions	District Role	No Pass No Play Criteria			Period of Ineligibility	Notes/Other
			Academic	Attendance	Conduct		
						if following end of grading period)	
Louisiana LA. REV. STAT. ANN. § 17:176	<i>Athletic activities</i> (not defined)	Districts must adhere to the eligibility guidelines established by the Louisiana High School Athletic Association.	X	X		Not defined	
Nevada NEV. ADMIN. CODE CH. 386, §§ 778, 802	<i>Sanctioned sports</i> : Defined as any athletic competition that is approved by the Nevada Interscholastic Activities Association.	Districts may impose more strict eligibility criteria than the state's, but must use the state's criteria as a minimum.	X			1 semester	Students may be ineligible for only 9 weeks if immediately following the failed semester they demonstrate 9 continuous weeks of compliance with the requirements. If so, students are placed on weekly probation.
New Mexico N.M. STAT. ANN. § 22-12-2.1	<i>Interscholastic extracurricular activities</i> (not defined)	All districts must comply with the state guidelines.	X	X		District determines	The state superintendent may waive the attendance requirement for participation in state or national competitions.
North Carolina N.C. ADMIN.	<i>Interscholastic athletics</i> (not defined)	Districts are able to individually establish the "promotion standards"	X			District determines	

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			Academic	Attendance	Conduct		
CODE TIT. 16, r. 6E.0202		required for participation.					
Ohio OHIO REV. CODE ANN. § 3313.535	<i>Interscholastic extracurricular activities:</i> Defined as a pupil activity program that a school or district sponsors or participates in and that includes participants from more than one school or school district. It does not include any activity included in the school district's graded course of study.	Districts are able to individually establish the criteria for "minimum GPA" required for participation. Also, districts may exceed the minimum requirements set by the state.	X			District determines	
South Carolina S.C. CODE ANN. § 59-39-160	<i>Interscholastic activities</i> (not defined)	Districts may impose more strict eligibility criteria than the state's, but must use the state's criteria as a minimum.	X			Not defined	State board may grant a waiver to students who have been found to have been misinformed by district personnel regarding eligibility requirements.
Texas TEX. EDUC. CODE ANN. § 33.081	<i>Extracurricular activities:</i> Defined as an activity sponsored by the University Interscholastic League (UIL), the school district board of trustees, or an organization sanctioned by resolution of the board of trustees. Activities are not necessarily directly related to instruction of the essential knowledge and skills but may have an indirect relation to some areas of the curriculum. Extracurricular activities include, but are not	Districts are required to follow academic eligibility guidelines established by the state.	X			3 weeks	Academic requirements are waived for students in advanced placement or international baccalaureate, or to honors and dual credit courses in core subject areas.

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	limited to, public performances, contests, demonstrations, displays, and club activities. In addition, an activity is subject to the provisions for an extracurricular activity if any one of the following criteria apply: the activity is competitive; the activity is held in conjunction with another activity that is considered to be extracurricular; the activity is held off campus, except in a case in which adequate facilities do not exist on campus; the general public is invited; or an admission is charged.						
West Virginia W. VA. ST. R. § 126-26-3	<i>Extracurricular activities:</i> Defined as nonacademic activities such as interscholastic athletics, student government, class officers, marching band that is not a part of the curricular band, and clubs which are not closely related to identifiable programs/areas of study.	Districts are required to follow academic eligibility guidelines established by the state.	X	X		1 semester	Students may become re-eligible mid-semester if they are meeting all eligibility requirements at the time.

II. Table B- No Pass No Play: District-Set Parameters

State	Coverage and Definitions	District Role	No Pass No Play Criteria			Period of Ineligibility	Notes/Other
			Academic	Attendance	Conduct		
Illinois 105 ILL. COMP. STAT. 5/10-20.30	<i>School-sponsored or school-supported athletic or extracurricular activities</i> (not defined)	Districts are required to individually establish the criteria for a “minimum GPA” or “minimum course grade” required for participation.	X			District determines	
Kentucky KY. REV. STAT. ANN. § 160.345	<i>Extracurricular activities</i> (not defined)	Districts are able to individually establish the criteria for “academic qualifications” and “attendance requirements” required for participation.	X	X	X	District determines	
Maryland MD. REGS. CODE TIT. 13A, § 06.03.02	<i>Interscholastic athletics</i> (not defined)	Districts are able to individually establish the criteria for “satisfactory progress toward graduation” required for participation and are able to impose stricter eligibility requirements than the state’s.	X			District determines	To participate in interscholastic athletics, students must attend a Maryland Public Secondary School Athletic Association member school.

III. Statutory Language Regarding Eligibility Criteria (emphasis added by ECS)

Alabama: Students entering Grades 10-12 must, for the last two semesters of attendance and summer school, if applicable, have a **passing grade** and earn the **appropriate number of credits** in each of six (6) subjects that total six (6) Carnegie units of credit, including four (4) credits from the four (4) core subjects composed of English, science, social studies, and mathematics with a composite numerical average of 70. Students entering Grades 8 and 9 must, for the last two semesters of attendance and summer school, if applicable, have a passing grade in five (5) subjects with a composite numerical average of 70 with all other rules applying the same as to students in Grades 9-12.

Arizona: To be eligible to participate in extracurricular activities, a student shall be required to: 2. Earn a **passing grade** in each course in which the student is enrolled; and 2. Maintain **satisfactory progress toward promotion or graduation**.

California: "Satisfactory educational progress" shall include, but not be limited to, the following: 1. Maintenance of minimum passing grades, which is defined as at least a **2.0 grade point average** in all enrolled courses on a 4.0 scale. 2. Maintenance of **minimum progress** toward meeting the high school graduation requirements prescribed by the governing board.

Florida: To be eligible to participate in interscholastic extracurricular student activities, a student must: 1. Maintain a **grade point average of 2.0** or above on a 4.0 scale, **or its equivalent**, in the previous semester or a cumulative grade point average of 2.0 or above on a 4.0 scale, or its equivalent, in the courses required by s. 1003.43(1). 2. Execute and fulfill the requirements of an **academic performance contract** between the student, the district school board, the appropriate governing association, and the student's parents, if the student's cumulative grade point average falls below 2.0, or its equivalent, on a 4.0 scale in the courses required by s. 1003.43(1) or, for students who entered the 9th grade prior to the 1997-1998 school year, if the student's cumulative grade point average falls below 2.0 on a 4.0 scale, or its equivalent, in the courses required by s. 1003.43(1) that are taken after July 1, 1997. At a minimum, the contract must require that the student attend summer school, or its graded equivalent, between grades 9 and 10 or grades 10 and 11, as necessary. 3. Have a cumulative grade point average of **2.0 or above** on a 4.0 scale, or its equivalent, in the courses required by s. 1003.43(1) during his or her junior or senior year. 4. Maintain **satisfactory conduct** and, if a student is convicted of, or is found to have committed, a felony or a delinquent act which would have been a felony if committed by an adult, regardless of whether adjudication is withheld, the student's participation in interscholastic extracurricular activities is contingent upon established and published district school board policy.

Illinois: The school board of each school district that maintains any of grades 9 through 12 shall establish, implement, and enforce a uniform and consistent policy under which a student in any of those grades who fails to maintain a specified minimum grade point average or a specified minimum grade in each course in which the student is enrolled or both is suspended from further participation in any school-sponsored or school-supported athletic or extracurricular activities for a specified period or until a specified minimum grade point average or minimum grade or both are earned by the student.

Iowa: All contestants shall be enrolled students of the school in good standing. They shall receive credit in at least four subjects, each of one period or "hour" or the equivalent thereof, at all times. Each contestant shall be **passing all coursework** for which credit is given and shall be **making adequate progress** toward graduation requirements at the end of each grading period.

Kentucky: The school council shall adopt a policy to be implemented by the principal in the following additional areas: ...8. Selection of extracurricular programs and determination of policies relating to student participation based on academic qualifications and attendance requirements, program evaluation, and supervision.

Louisiana: The State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education shall adopt a policy no later than March 31, 1985 which as a minimum shall require that the 1984 Scholastic Rule of the Louisiana High School Athletic Association be adhered to by all high schools under its jurisdiction. The Board is further directed to review the policy of the Association on an annual basis and adopt such rules as are necessary to insure that these minimum standards are maintained or upgraded.

Maryland: Each local school system shall establish standards of participation which assure that students involved in interscholastic athletics are making satisfactory progress toward graduation.

Nevada: For each semester a pupil participates in a sanctioned sport, the pupil must enroll in a course of at least two units of credit and **regularly attend** a school. The pupil must **successfully complete a course of at least two units of**

credit for the immediately preceding semester. If a pupil fails to complete successfully the course for that semester, he is ineligible to participate in a sanctioned sport for one semester unless, for the grading period for the first nine weeks of the semester that is conducted immediately after that semester, he receives a passing grade for the two units of credit for the grading period, at which time he must be placed on weekly probation.

New Mexico: A student shall have a **2.0 grade point average** on a 4.0 scale, or its equivalent, either cumulatively or for the grading period immediately preceding participation, in order to be eligible to participate in any interscholastic extracurricular activity. For purposes of this section, "grading period" is a period of time not less than six weeks. The provisions of this subsection shall not apply to special education students placed in class C and class D programs. No student shall be **absent from school** for school-sponsored interscholastic extracurricular activities **in excess of fifteen days per semester**, and no class may be missed in excess of fifteen times per semester.

North Carolina: In grades 9-12, the student must **pass at least 75% of the maximum of possible courses** each semester and **meet promotion standards** established by the LEA.

Ohio: Not later than July 1, 1998, the board of education of each city, local, exempted village, and joint vocational school district shall adopt rules requiring students in grades 7-12 to attain a minimum grade point average, to be established by the board, as a condition for such students to participate in interscholastic extracurricular activities. Not later than July 1, 1998, the board of education shall adopt a policy either prohibiting any student from participating in any interscholastic extracurricular activity, or allowing any student to so participate, if the student has received a **failing grade for any class or course** in the school district's graded course of study for the previous grading period.

South Carolina: To participate in interscholastic activities, students in grades 9-12 must achieve an **overall passing average** and either: 1. **Pass at least four academic courses**, including each unit the student takes that is required for graduation; or 2. **Pass a total of five academic courses**. Students must satisfy these conditions in the semester preceding participation in the interscholastic activity, if the interscholastic activity occurs completely within one semester or in the semester preceding the first semester of participation in an interscholastic activity if the interscholastic activity occurs over two consecutive semesters and is under the jurisdiction of the South Carolina High School League.

Texas: A student who is enrolled in a school district in this state or who participates in a University Interscholastic League competition shall be suspended from participation in any extracurricular activity sponsored or sanctioned by the school district or the University Interscholastic League after a grade evaluation period in which the student received a **grade lower than the equivalent of 70 on a scale of 100 in any academic class** other than a course described by Subsection (d-1). Subsections (c) and (d) do not apply to an advanced placement or international baccalaureate course, or to an honors or dual credit course in the subject areas of English language arts, mathematics, science, social studies, economics, or a language other than English.

West Virginia: A student is required to do **passing work** in the equivalent of at least 20 periods (**four subjects with full credit toward graduation**) per week. Failure to earn passing marks in four full credit subjects during a semester shall render a student ineligible for the following semester.

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¹ Lipscomb, Stephen. 2006. *Secondary School Extracurricular Involvement and Academic Achievement: A Fixed Effects Approach*. Economics of Education Review 26, pg. 463-472.

² *ibid.*