Co-curricular and Extra-curricular Programs: Eligibility

I. Academic Standards for Participation in Athletics, Marching Band, and Drill Team

To maintain eligibility, high school students participating in interscholastic athletics, cheerleading, marching band, and drill team must pass five subjects and earn a "C" or better in two subjects at the end of the first semester and at the end of the school year.

The initial determination of eligibility at the beginning of a new semester is made on the first instructional day of the semester.

Student assistant electives (e.g., lab assistants) shall not be counted toward meeting the standards of eligibility.

A. The following appeal procedure, in accordance with School Board Policy 731, shall be adhered to when a student maintains Virginia High School League and district eligibility, but fails to achieve county standards of eligibility:

1. The student or parent may appeal directly to the school principal by providing a written statement describing the circumstances that resulted in failure to achieve the standard. The appeal must be made within three school days following issuance of report cards.

2. The school principal shall review the appeal and submit all appeal requests, accompanied by the principal's recommendation, within three school days after receipt of the appeal to the Supervisor of Student Activities.

3. Appeal requests shall result in the review of student attendance, effort, conduct, grades, and discipline record when rendering eligibility decisions. The decision rendered by the Supervisor of Student Activities shall be final.

4. The student shall remain ineligible during the appeal process.

5. Students declared ineligible because of grades shall have their cases reviewed by appropriate staff, as determined by the principal, and, where advisable, tutorial and other assistance will be suggested.

6. If a student is ineligible for participation in the respective activities at the end of the school year, the student may consider repeating a failed course and/or enrolling in an additional course in summer school. Grades received in the summer school course(s) shall be considered for eligibility requirements in the fall.
B. During the season, coaches or sponsors of the respective activities shall check interim grades and notify the student participant of the possibility of ineligibility for the following semester. In those instances where non-school staff are employed as coaches, the school’s director of student activities shall be responsible for assisting the coach or sponsor in checking interim grades and notifying the student participant of the possibility of ineligibility for the following semester.

II. Transfer Eligibility for Virginia High School League Activities

For the purpose of this regulation, the “base school” is defined as the school that serves the community in which a student has established residence. Students who are granted approval to transfer to a school outside their established attendance area shall be eligible to participate in Virginia High School League activities when entering the school as a first time ninth grader, or as a 10th grade student entering a specialty program for the first time. Any further transferring without a corresponding address will result in a 365-day period of ineligibility.

The Division Superintendent (or designee) may grant a waiver to the Virginia High School League transfer rule based on a decision made by the School Division that requires the transfer of the student, but not for athletic and/or activity purposes (Virginia High School League Handbook, Transfer Rule 28A-7-1).

A. Students who transfer to a school to participate in a designated specialty program shall meet full participation requirements for the program to retain eligibility.

1. Students who enter such programs as rising ninth graders are eligible to participate in Virginia High School League sponsored activities. Once a student establishes eligibility in a high school, and the student transfers to another high school, the student shall be ineligible for 365 days unless there is a corresponding change of address in accordance with Virginia High School League Rule 28A-7.

2. Students who have established eligibility in a school, and subsequently change into or out of a site designated program, will be ineligible for 90 school days, from the date of the transfer, in accordance with Virginia High School League Rule 28A-7-1 (3).

3. If a student is dismissed by the program director from the designated site program for not meeting the program requirements, the student shall return to his or her base school the following school year.

4. If a student chooses to withdraw from a designated site program, the student shall return to his or her base school the following school year. The student will be ineligible for 365 calendar days in accordance of Virginia High School League Transfer Rule 28A-7-1.
5. Twelfth grade students shall not be permitted to transfer for such designated site programs without specific permission from the Associate Superintendent for High Schools (or designee).

The Associate Superintendent for High Schools and the Associate Superintendent for Student and Professional Learning (or designee) are responsible for implementing and monitoring this regulation.

This regulation and related policy shall be reviewed at least every five years and revised as needed.