

SOUTH CENTRAL OHIO GOVERNING BOARD



**HOME EDUCATION
ELIGIBILITY GUIDELINES
FOR
EXTRACURRICULAR
ACTIVITIES**

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ENROLLMENT AND ATTENDANCE and THE BUDGET BILL SIGNED BY GOV. KASICH

On July 1, 2013, Governor Kasich signed into law the biennium budget bill. The law became effective 90 days after the Governor signed the bill. The Budget Bill that affect a student's "opportunities to participate" in all extra-curricular activities (Note: this bill is not limited to just interscholastic athletic teams or sports) that will be addressed in this Guidance. Those aspects are students who are excused from compulsory education or home-educated students.

I. HOME EDUCATED STUDENTS

The Budget Bill sections that address home-educated students are actually split into two sections: students whose parents reside in your district and who may wish to participate on your school-sponsored teams and students whose parents reside "outside" your district but who may still wish to participate on your school-sponsored sport teams.

A. The home educated student who resides in your district

Section 3313.5312(A) provides, in pertinent part, that "a student who is receiving home education in accordance with division (A)(2) of section 3321.04 of the Revised Code **shall be afforded**, by the Superintendent of the school district in **which the student is entitled to attend school** under section 3313.64 or 3313.65 of the Revised Code, **the opportunity to participate in any extracurricular activity offered at the district school to which the student otherwise would be assigned during that school year...**" This law differs significantly from Exception 6 to Bylaw 4-3-1 in that it removes the option available under Exception 6 of requiring a student to enroll at your school and/or to take at least one course at your school. Any student who is receiving home education pursuant to statute and who resides in your district or is otherwise entitled to attend your schools, **shall have** the same opportunities to participate on your school sponsored teams (and all extra-curricular activities for that matter) as any and all other students in your district. The statute does go on to state that the **home-educated student must meet all other eligibility requirements**, e.g. transfer, scholarship, age, semesters, etc., and pay the same fees (e.g. pay-to-play) as any other student. Note: A student who leaves a member school for home education during the school year in order to avoid the consequence of failing grades shall be ineligible for one grading period upon return to the member school's athletic programs.

B. The home educated student who does not reside in your district

Section 3313.5312(B) addresses the student who receives home education under division (A)(2) of section 3321.04 of the Revised Code and **who is not entitled to attend school in the district** under section 3313.64 or 3313.65 of the Revised Code. In that situation, the Budget Bill states that “the superintendent . . . may afford [the student] . . . the opportunity to participate in any extracurricular activity offered by a school of the district **if the district to which the student is entitled to attend does not offer that extracurricular activity.**” While the language of this section of the bill is confusing and fraught with practical difficulties for schools (financial accounting and otherwise), for purposes of interscholastic athletic competition, two things must be kept in mind: (1) that it remains the “**option**” of the superintendent as to whether s/he would permit this participation and (2) that “**option**” only exists if the school to which the student is entitled to attend does not offer the sport in question. In other words, if Jane Doe is a resident of District A and is receiving home education under division (A)(2) of 3321.04, Jane Doe is not eligible at District B for volleyball if District A sponsors volleyball even if District B’s superintendent would have otherwise “permitted” Jane’s participation at District B’s school.

NOTE: The Budget Bill does address the “student who commences home education after the beginning of the school year” and who is ineligible to participate in extracurricular activities at the time s/he commences home education by declaring “**no student under this section shall be eligible to participate in the same semester in which the student was determined ineligible.**” While there exists some ambiguity to this provision, it is the position of the Commissioner’s Office that the legislative intent with this language is that no student shall be permitted to circumvent the academic standards for participation in extracurricular activities by receiving home education.

Therefore, the position of the OHSAA is that the scholarship bylaw applies to all students and that a student who was failing to meet the academic standards of the bylaws and/or the member school

at the time s/he becomes “home educated” shall be ineligible for the remainder of that grading period as well as the following grading period.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT LEGISLATION CONTAINED IN THE BUDGET BILL WHICH AFFECTS OHSAA ENROLLMENT AND ATTENDANCE BYLAW 4-3-1

Q - This legislation represents a significant departure from the fundamental principle, which supports our enrollment and attendance bylaw. However, we understand that we are nevertheless responsible for certifying that these students, who do not attend our school, are eligible in all other aspects of OHSAA student eligibility bylaw 4. How do you suggest that we certify this eligibility?

A - Please keep in mind that nothing in this legislation changes the premise that athletics participation is a PRIVILEGE to be accorded to students who have met the eligibility standards established by the member school principals of the OHSAA. While it will admittedly be more difficult to ascertain eligibility, especially scholastic eligibility, for a student who does not attend your school, it must be done in order for the student to have this privilege of participation. This certification process

will require the cooperation of the entity which is providing the education. If the student is home educated, the school administrator must reach out to the individual or entity that is delivering and/or will be evaluating the student's academic work to make arrangements for the submission of grades or progress reports (pass/fail analysis) at the time when the school's grading periods close. A good time to make arrangements for this process is when the parents and students arrive at the school for the mandatory pre-season meeting which is required for participation in all interscholastic sports.

Please be reminded that in order to assess scholastic eligibility for a student enrolled in high school, the "credit hour" and duration of the course (e.g. 9 week, semester, full academic year) are critical to the analysis of "five one credit courses or the equivalent." If a student completes a yearlong course "early," that course may not be used to determine eligibility for future grading periods.

In addition to the scholastic assessment, the school administrator must review with the parents the need to provide reliable data on which to evaluate the OHSAA age, semester, residence and transfer bylaws. In short, before a home-educated student's name can be added to an eligibility certificate, the school administrator must be certain that all standards, that are applicable to all other students, have been met.

Q – It would appear from first reading this legislation that home-educated students may have opportunities to participate on different sport teams of different high schools in the same school year. How, if at all, is the transfer bylaw affected by this legislation?

A - The legislation does speak to the fact that these students be given the "same opportunities" to participate – not greater opportunities. The legislation also speaks to the fact that these students must meet the same requirements as other students. The OHSAA is taking the position that the transfer bylaw is unaffected by this legislation. Thus, for example, if Student A is a home-educated student living in District B but wants to play on a sports team in District C, Student A would be considered a transfer student and subject to the transfer bylaw. Please also remember that the home-educated student is not permitted to play for District C unless his or her residential District B does not offer the sport AND the superintendent of District C agrees to allow the participation.

Also concerning home-educated students, if the home-educated student has attended any school, member or otherwise, within 12 months of the desired participation with your school team, the student would also be considered a transfer student. For example, if Student A, whose parents live in school District A, attended a high school from August 2012- February 28, 2013, and subsequently withdrew to be home educated, the student did attend a high school within the past 12 months from this current fall season. Being home educated for three to four months does not excuse the student from having to adhere to the transfer bylaw.

If this student participated in a fall sport prior to withdrawing to be home educated, the student would have a 50% period of ineligibility in that sport, which is the consequence for a transfer. A student must have been home educated for an entire year prior to participation in order to avoid the requirements of the transfer bylaw. If Student A did not participate in a sport in the previous 12 months, that student would be immediately eligible insofar as transfer just as any full-time student who transfers and who did not participate in a sport within the past 12 months would also be eligible immediately.

Curriculum and Portfolio Requirements

3301-34-03 Notification		
Example		
a) Language, reading, spelling, and writing:	English 9	1 credit
(b) Geography, History of the United States and Ohio; and national, state, and local government;	History 9	1 credit
(c) Mathematics;	Math 9	1 credit
(d) Science;	Science	1 credit
(e) Health;	Health	½ credit
(e) Physical education;	P.E.	½ credit
(h) First aid, safety, and fire prevention	CPR	¼ credit
There are additional courses that you can choose.		

3301-34-03 Notification 3301-34-04 Assessment
Portfolio Requirements
<input type="checkbox"/> Minimum of five one-credit courses or equivalent
<input type="checkbox"/> Evidence of 225 hours per nine week grading period.
<input type="checkbox"/> Documentation of hours within each subject area
<input type="checkbox"/> Evidence of lessons or assignments per subject area
<input type="checkbox"/> Provide evidence of Assessments
<input type="checkbox"/> Report card with teacher signature (See page 8)
The School District Principal or designee shall review the information submitted to determine if the student has met OHSAA eligibility guidelines.

Guidelines for Student Athletic Eligibility

Produced By The Ohio High School Athletic Association

For School Counselors

Revised 9/13



As a school counselor, you are a vital link of the OHSAA team in efforts to promote scholarship and protect the eligibility of students. Information contained on this card will acquaint you with the OHSAA scholarship bylaws and regulations. In addition to the OHSAA standards, your school may have other standards that apply. Any questions you have concerning standards should be reviewed with your school principal or athletic administrator.

NOTE: In addition to any local standards or state mandated standards (GPA), the OHSAA standards must be met without exception in order to maintain athletic eligibility.

OHSAA Bylaws for Students in Grades 7-12

Please familiarize yourself with the following OHSAA Bylaws:

- All beginning seventh graders are eligible insofar as the scholarship bylaw.
- All beginning ninth graders must have passed a **minimum of five** of all subjects in which enrolled the immediately preceding grading period.
- Eligibility for each grading period is determined by grades received the preceding grading period. **Semester and yearly grades have no effect on OHSAA eligibility.**
- **Grades 9-12:** To be eligible, a student-athlete must have received passing grades in a minimum of **five** one-credit courses, or the equivalent, in the immediately preceding grading period (**Note:** Students taking post-secondary options must comply with these standards along with those participating via state law that permits home educated and non-public school students to participate at the public schools in the district of residence of the parents).
- **Grades 7-8:** To be eligible, a student-athlete must have received passing grades in a minimum of five of all subjects in which enrolled the immediately preceding grading period. Students must also comply who are participating via state law that permits home educated and non-public school students to participate at the public schools in the district of residence of the parents.
- For eligibility, summer school grades may not be used to substitute for failing grades received in the final grading period of the regular school year or for lack of enough courses taken the preceding grading period.

NOTE: "Grading period" is defined as your school's board-adopted calendar. In most school districts, this is a nine-week period, while some districts use six- or 12-week periods or semesters. It should also be noted, however, that interim, biweekly or weekly evaluations are not considered "grading periods" and restoration of eligibility is **NOT** permitted after such evaluations.

Examples of Determining Student Eligibility - Grades 9-12

Passing grades must have been received in a minimum of **five** one-credit courses, or the equivalent, in the immediately preceding grading period. To determine credit equivalency, multiply full-year courses by a factor of 1; semester courses by a factor of 2; twelve-week courses by a factor of 3; and nine-week courses by a factor of 4.

Example 1: 1st Nine-Week Grading Period

Subject	Grade	Credit & Duration	Factor	Credit Equivalency (Must Equal 5 Units or Equivalent)
English 10	C	1 - all year	1	$1 \times 1 = 1$
Spanish I	D	1 - all year	1	$1 \times 1 = 1$
Health	B	1/2 - semester	2	$1/2 \times 2 = 1$
Algebra	F	1 - all year	1	0
Computers	C	1/2 - semester	2	$1/2 \times 2 = 1$
Social Studies	C	1/2 - semester	2	$1/2 \times 2 = 1$
Total Credits				5 = eligible for 2nd grading period

Example 2: 4th Nine-Week Grading Period

Subject	Grade	Credit & Duration	Factor	Credit Equivalency (Must Equal 5 Units or Equivalent)
English	C	1 - all year	1	$1 \times 1 = 1$
O.W.E.	F	2 - all year	1	0
O.W.E.	D	1 - all year	1	$1 \times 1 = 1$
History	B	1 - all year	1	$1 \times 1 = 1$
Health	B	1/4 - semester	2	$1/4 \times 2 = 1/2$
Typing	C	1/4 - 4th 9 weeks	4	$1/4 \times 4 = 1$
Total Credits				4 1/2 = ineligible for 1st grading period of next school year

Post-Secondary Options

Note: If a student is taking all course work at the post-secondary institution, the minimum number of credits required (under either the quarter or semester system) in order to maintain athletic eligibility is 13. Also note that in accordance with Bylaw 4-4-1, all courses taken in PSEO must count toward high school graduation.

It is highly recommended that you obtain a copy of *Ohio's Post-Secondary Enrollment Options Program* from the State Department of Education. In addition, students electing to enroll in PEO must be certain that 1.) The faculty members at the post-secondary institution understand that they will need to provide grades or a progress report at the time when the high school's grading period is over, and 2.) The student-athlete is taking enough course work at the post-secondary institution exclusively or between the post-secondary institution and the high school combined to be equivalent to five one-credit courses. Calculating equivalency of credits in the post-secondary institution is conducted in the same manner as in the high school, based on the Carnegie unit. **College courses for which five semester hours (7 1/2 quarter hours) of credit are earned shall be awarded one Carnegie unit. Fractional Carnegie units will be awarded proportionately.** Examples of post-secondary options:

Example 1: 1st Nine-Week Grading Period

Subject	School	Credit & Duration	Credit Equivalency (Must Equal 5 Units or Equivalent)
History	High	1 (year course)	$1 \times 1 = 1$
Literature	PEOP	3 quarter hours	$.4 \times 3 = 1.2$
Calculus	PEOP	5 quarter hours	$.67 \times 3 = 2.01$
Biology	PEOP	3 quarter hours	$.4 \times 3 = 1.2$
Total Credits			5.41 = eligible for 2nd grading period provided all courses passed

The factor of 3 is used for post-secondary institutions that are on the quarter system.

Example 2: 4th Nine-Week Grading Period

Subject	School	Credit & Duration	Credit Equivalency (Must Equal 5 Units or Equivalent)
French	PEOP	5 semester hours	$1 \times 2 = 1$
Sociology	PEOP	3 semester hours	$.6 \times 2 = 1.2$
Computers	PEOP	2 semester hours	$.4 \times 2 = .8$
Geology	PEOP	3 semester hours	$.6 \times 2 = 1.2$
Total Credits			5.2 = eligible for 1st grading period of next school year provided all courses passed

The factor of 2 is used for post-secondary institutions that are on the semester system. Note that this student is taking all courses at the post-secondary institution, which is acceptable.

Block Scheduling

Block scheduling or double blocking of courses does not change the calculation of credit equivalencies as required in OHSAA bylaws. Courses taken over one semester or one quarter (9-week period) carry a factor of 2 and 4, respectively. Therefore, if a student takes an English course during the first semester only and receives one credit for passing that course, that class carries an equivalency of 2 (1 credit x the factor for a semester course (2) = 2). Examples of block scheduling:

Example 1: 1st Nine-Week Grading Period

Subject	Grade	Credit & Duration	Factor	Credit Equivalency (Must Equal 5 Units or Equivalent)
English 10	C	1 - semester	2	$1 \times 2 = 2$
Spanish 2	C	1 - semester	2	$1 \times 2 = 2$
Health	B	1/4 - 1st 9 weeks	4	$1/4 \times 4 = 1$
Total Credits				5 = eligible for 2nd grading period

Example 2: 3rd Nine-Week Grading Period

Subject	Grade	Credit & Duration	Factor	Credit Equivalency (Must Equal 5 Units or Equivalent)
Calculus	B	1 - semester	2	$1 \times 2 = 2$
French	C	1 - semester	2	$1 \times 2 = 2$
Phys. Ed	A	1/4 - semester	2	$1/4 \times 2 = 1/2$
Total Credits				4 1/2 = ineligible for 4th grading period

For information on Credit Flex as it relates to OHSAA eligibility standards, please go to www.ohsaa.org/eligibility/default.asp

Examples of Determining Student Eligibility – Grades 7-8

Passing grades must have been received in a minimum of five of all subjects in which enrolled in the immediately preceding grading period. All courses in which a student receives a grade count toward this eligibility requirement.

Example 1: 1st Nine-Week Grading Period

Subject	Grade
English	F
Math	B
Home Economics	B
Computers	C
Music	C
Health	E
Credits Passed	4 of 6 classes = NOT eligible for 2nd grading period

Example 2: 3rd Nine-Week Grading Period

Subject	Grade
English	F
Math	D
Industrial Arts	C
Music	B
Computers	B
Physical Education	B
Credits Passed	5 of 6 classes = eligible for 4th grading period

Quick Reference for Protecting Student Eligibility

- Parents and students share the responsibility to comply with scholarship standards. Therefore, do not advise a student to drop a class without first consulting with the athletic administrator to determine whether it will affect athletic eligibility.
- Do not permit a student-athlete to transfer without first determining whether it will affect athletic eligibility. At the beginning of the ninth grade year, students may enroll in and attend any member school that accepts them. Once eligibility has been established at a member school, a student who transfers will be ineligible for all contests until the first 50 percent of the regular season contests have been competed in any sport in which the student participated during the previous 12 months unless one of the exceptions to the transfer bylaw is met. Should one of your student-athletes plan to transfer, set up a meeting between the student-athlete, his/her parents and your school principal or athletic administrator to review what effect the transfer will have on athletic eligibility.
- Be knowledgeable of the OHSAA eligibility requirements.
- Attempt to identify students who are or may become athletes when reviewing class schedules. *Insure that student-athletes are taking enough courses to meet the eligibility requirements so that they may participate the next grading period.*
- Work closely with the coaches and athletic director.
- Contact the athletic director or principal on questions pertaining to eligibility and ask them to discuss any unresolved issues with the administrators in the OHSAA office who handle eligibility issues.

NOTE: The OHSAA has no minimum grade point (GPA) requirement, thus issues regarding eligibility when only the GPA is of concern is strictly a local school district matter and not an OHSAA matter.

For additional information, contact:

Ohio High School Athletic Association

4080 Roselea Place, Columbus, Ohio 43214

Office Hours: Monday - Friday 7:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Telephone: (614) 267-2502 • Fax: (614) 267-1677 • Website: www.ohsaa.org

The complete text of the Bylaws and Regulations is published in the OHSAA Handbook, which is mailed to your school each summer and is posted on the OHSAA website.

Ohio High School Athletic Association
Eligibility Checklist
 For High School Students (Updated 5/1/13)

Before you play, you must be eligible. Please review the following checklist with your parents. Unchecked boxes will likely mean you are **NOT** eligible. For questions, see your principal or athletic administrator.

- I am enrolled in at least five one credit courses or the equivalent, each of which counts toward graduation.
- I received passing grades in at least five one credit courses or the equivalent, each of which count toward graduation, during my last grading period.
- I have at least one parent living in Ohio.
- I have not changed schools without a corresponding move by my parents or legal guardian or by qualifying for one of the exceptions to the OHSAA transfer regulation.
- If I have changed schools (transferred), I have followed up with my new school to ensure that all proper forms have been submitted to the OHSAA Office.
- I have not been enrolled in high school for more than eight semesters.
- I did not turn 19 before August 1, 2013.
- I have not received an award, equipment or prize valued at greater than \$200 per item.
- I am competing under my true name and have provided my school with my correct home address.
- I have not competed in a mandatory open gym/facility, conditioning or instructional program.
- I have not been coached or provided instruction by a school coach in a team sport other than during my sport season, during an instructional period approved by the OHSAA or for no more than 10 days between June 1 and July 31.
- I am not competing on a non-school team during my school team's season.
- I have not been recruited to attend this school.
- I am not using anabolic steroids or other performance-enhancing drugs.
- I have had a physical examination within the past year and it is on file at my school.
- My parents and I attended a preseason meeting at my school which the OHSAA requires to be held no later than two weeks after the beginning of each sports season. We viewed a video presentation prepared by the OHSAA to review key eligibility issues, healthy lifestyles and sporting behavior.
- My school also reviewed with my parents and me its concussion management protocol, we reviewed and signed the Ohio Department of Health's "Concussion Information Sheet" prior to participation and we reviewed a short presentation on concussions available at no cost at nfhslearn.com.
- My parents and I have signed the OHSAA Authorization Form and the OHSAA Eligibility and Authorization Statement and they are on file at my school.

 Student Printed Name

 Parent/Guardian Printed Name

 Student Signature

 Parent/Guardian Signature

 Student Date

 Parent/Guardian Date

NOTE: This form has been provided as a service to the OHSAA membership for schools to utilize with student-athletes and their parents/guardians. Use of this form is at the sole discretion of each member school.

Students Name _____

Grade _____

Report Card

	Subject/Activity Name	1 st 9 Week Grade	2 nd 9 Week Grade	3 rd 9 Week Grade	4 th 9 Week Grade	Final Grade	Teacher's Signature
1							
2							
3							
4							
5							
6							
7							
8							

Teachers Name: _____

SOUTH CENTRAL OHIO GOVERNING BOARD



HOME EDUCATION ELIGIBILITY GUIDELINES FOR EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

By signing below I acknowledge that I have read the Home Education Eligibility Guidelines for Extracurricular Activities and agree to work in compliance with the guidelines.

Student Printed Name

Parent/Guardian, Printed Name

Student Signature

Parent/Guardian Signature

Student Date

Parent/Guardian Date