

POLICY

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Activities Eligibility

2431.1 ATHLETIC AND EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES ELIGIBILITY

All students who desire to participate in competitive athletics and extracurricular activities shall demonstrate satisfactory minimum progress in meeting the requirements of graduation. These students will be required to subscribe to the prescribed course of study and meet the standards of proficiency established by the District. All students must maintain appropriate conduct in order to participate in competitive athletics and extracurricular activities. Students participating in such activities must remember that education is the primary goal of Paterson Public Schools. Participation in competitive athletics and extracurricular activities is a privilege, not a right. The privilege to participate in such activities may be revoked at the discretion of the Superintendent or his designee.

In keeping with the enhanced state mandated academic requirements that students are being asked to embrace, the district will be requiring an increase in the grade point average requirement for participation in competitive athletics and extracurricular activities. These requirements will be implemented beginning the 2012-2013 school year.

Upon full implementation of these requirements, pupil participation in athletic competition shall be governed by the following eligibility standards:

I. Elementary Grades Only:

- A. A pupil in any grade must maintain a satisfactory record of attendance to be eligible for participation in sports. An attendance record is unsatisfactory if absences exceed more than two (2) unexcused absences per month. No pupil who has been absent for a school day may participate in an athletic competition



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scheduled for the afternoon or evening of that school day.

1. A pupil must maintain a grade point average (GPA) of at least 2.10 to be eligible to participate in organized athletic activities or competition.
 - a. A pupil in any grade who fails to demonstrate good citizenship or observe school rules for pupil conduct may forfeit his/her eligibility for participation in athletic competition.
2. Notice of these eligibility requirements shall be given to pupils.

II. Secondary Grades Only:

- A. To be eligible for participation in any competitive athletic or extracurricular activity, students entering the 9th grade must have been regularly promoted from the 8th grade. A regularly promoted student entering the 9th grade will automatically be eligible for the first quarter of the school year. To maintain eligibility thereafter, a freshman student must maintain a 2.10 or above cumulative GPA. Eligibility is determined at the close of each quarterly marking period.
- B. A pupil in grades 10, 11, or 12 who in the previous school year earned twenty-five percent of the total number of credits required by the district (31.25 credits) for graduation is eligible for participation in sports in the fall and winter seasons. A pupil in twelve and one-half percent of the total number of credits required by the district (15.6325 credits) for graduation is eligible for participation in sports in the spring season. A pupil who is eligible at the start of a sports season remains eligible for that



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entire season regardless of his/her grades at the end of a marking period.

1. A pupil must have at least a 2.25 cumulative grade point average in 10th grade, 2.37 in 11th grade, and 2.5 in 12th grade to be eligible.
2. The student must achieve an increase of at least .13 in GPA each year of participation in order to remain eligible.

C. Students on Academic Probation

1. When a student fails to meet the above criteria, quarterly progress reports and/or report cards will be shared by guidance counselors with athletic directors who will notify the appropriate coaches, sponsors, directors and students participating in competitive extracurricular activities. Students at risk of failing a subject or who do not maintain the required academic standards will be placed on Academic Probation. Only one Academic Probation period will be granted during an academic school year. Written notice of potential ineligibility to participate in extracurricular activities will be provided to the student and his/her parent/guardian promptly. Records of progress shall be maintained by a student's guidance counselor and the athletic director, and shall be accessible to the student's teachers, principal and superintendent, and the extracurricular activity's teaching advisor.
2. During Academic Probation, the student will be required to submit a completed weekly progress report to his/her teacher(s). The weekly progress report will be shared with the guidance counselor,



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athletic director, coach and/or sponsor. In order to remain eligible, the student must demonstrate that satisfactory effort is being exerted in all courses and that all assignments for the week have been completed. In addition, the student and his/her parent or guardian will be required to meet with the building principal and each teacher of the course in which the student is in danger of failing to develop a plan as to how the student will attempt to meet all course requirements.

3. To the extent possible under budgetary and personnel restrictions, the District will make available tutoring services to assist all students who are at risk of failing or who cannot maintain the required academic standards for participation in extracurricular activities. Each student who is on probation is encouraged to utilize the tutoring services.

Adopted: 18 November 2009

