

Pursuant to North Carolina State Board of Education Policy ATHL-005, middle school students must meet and maintain eligibility standards to participate on school-sponsored athletic teams. Students begin establishing their eligibility when they enter middle school. Please review this information carefully and if you have any questions, ask your principal, athletic director, or coach for clarification.

ACADEMIC AND ATTENDANCE STANDARDS

To be eligible for participation in athletics during the **current semester**, the student is required

(1) to have an average grade of 60 or higher in 70% of all courses for the **previous semester**

AND

(2) to have no more than 8 absences in the **previous semester.**

If absences have been formally waived by the principal, these shall not count toward the total number of absences for eligibility purposes.

Current semester eligibility is based upon the preceding semester.

ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS

- A student shall not participate on a seventh (7th) or eighth (8th) grade team if the student becomes 15 years of age on or before August 31 of that school year.
- A student who is not academically eligible at the beginning of a semester period is not eligible at any time during that semester. (Exception: A student who receives an “incomplete” in a course which causes him/her not to meet minimum scholastic requirements is ineligible until the course is satisfactorily made up and eligibility is restored.)
- No student may be eligible to participate at the middle school level for more than six (6) consecutive semesters beginning with the student’s entry into sixth (6th) grade).
- A student must have a current health physical within the last 395 days to be eligible for participation.
- Students and their custodial parents must be domiciled within the attendance zone of the school for which the student-athlete is participating. Failure to adhere to the residency rule renders a student-athlete ineligible and results in the team forfeiting games during which that student-athlete was a member of the team.
- A student shall not participate on a middle school athletic team after pleading guilty or “no contest” to, or being convicted (adjudicated as a delinquent) of, a felony under the laws of North Carolina, the United States, or any other state.
- **South Davidson Middle School-** Sixth grade students are allowed to participate on athletic teams (except football) at SDMS. Therefore, upon entry into 6th grade, students will be deemed eligible for 1st semester, and eligibility for 2nd semester will be determined based upon the student’s academic and attendance records from 1st semester of 6th grade.

Additional information about middle school athletics can be found in the Student Handbook for Grades 6-8 and on the athletic page of each school’s website. Additionally, the full and complete rules and requirements for students to participate in interscholastic athletics can be found in North Carolina State Board of Education [Policy ATHL-005](#).