DAVIDSON COUNTY SCHOOLS
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Middle School Athletic Eligibility
2025-2026

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. For example, eligibility to participate in the 7th grade year is established **during** the student's 6th grade year. Please review this information carefully and if you have any questions, ask your principal, athletic director, or coach for clarification.

ELIGIBILITY

Per NCDPI Policy ATHL-005
To be eligible to participate in interscholastic athletics, a student must be in good academic standing. For purposes of this Policy, a student shall be deemed to be in good academic standing under the following circumstances:

- The student attended at least 85 percent of the total number of instructional days in the PSU during the previous semester;
- The student passed at least 70 percent of the courses taken in the preceding semester; and
- The student is making sufficient progress toward meeting the academic and curricular requirements of the PSU and the State Board of Education to be promoted to the next grade level or to graduate within the next calendar year.

Per Davidson County Schools Board Policy 6.4 Attendance
For the purpose of determining athletic/extracurricular eligibility, all middle and high school students will be allowed a maximum of eight (8) absences per semester. For the purpose of enforcement of this policy in determining athletic/extracurricular eligibility, two school quarters shall equal a 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 and concussion information sheets renewed annually.
- 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.