

Athletic Eligibility / Grade Checks- High School

It's vital that our student-athletes are meeting eligibility requirements. Academic eligibility requirements vary depending on the sports season and applicable grading period. The information below explains the WIAA and SBLSD academic standards, grade-check procedures, and consequences when a student-athlete does not meet the applicable requirements.

Athletic eligibility

Prior to all seasons student-athletes must be deemed eligible (cleared) to play. This means that the student-athlete is:

1. Meeting WIAA requirements- **Passing at least 5 out of 6 classes (or equivalent).** Seniors on track to graduate and taking less than 6 classes must pass ALL classes!
2. Meeting Sumner-Bonney Lake School District (SBLSD) requirements- **passing all classes AND maintaining a minimum current 2.0 GPA.**

NOTE: Though SBLSD requires student-athletes to pass all classes while the WIAA only requires 5 out of 6, both are listed because some grades are tied to each separately, and the penalties for not meeting each standard differ.

RUNNING START STUDENTS-

For semester eligibility determinations, the student's most recent applicable transcript grades will be used. Students who do not meet applicable WIAA and/or SBLSD academic standards are subject to the corresponding consequences described in this document. Current grades will also be reviewed to determine SBLSD eligibility. A student who is ineligible based solely on current grades **may** regain eligibility once the student is meeting SBLSD requirements.

WIAA Handbook Language- 18.7.0 RUNNING START ELIGIBILITY 18.7.4 *The Running Start student shall maintain passing grades during each college term for any courses in which they are enrolled at the college and high school level. Grades at the end of each college term are final and high school grades are frozen to determine eligibility. Failure to maintain passing grades at the end of each term equivalent to the standards set in Rule 18.8.0, will result in a suspension period as outlined in 18.8.6. For the purposes of this rule, one five credit class in a college quarter shall be equal to one high school credit and one three credit class in a college semester shall also be equal to one high school credit.*

Per WIAA rules grades are frozen on specific dates EVEN IF THE RUNNING START CLASS IS NOT COMPLETED. Therefore, it's very important that Running Start Students maintain passing grades and have a minimum 2.0 GPA AT ALL TIMES.

Procedures for determining athletic eligibility vary for each season as follows:

FALL SPORTS -

PREVIOUS SPRING SEMESTER grades will be used to determine initial fall interscholastic eligibility.

SBLSD Academic Standards/Athletic Probation Period/Academic Suspension-

- **All student-athletes must pass all classes and maintain a minimum current 2.0 GPA.**

Any student-athlete who failed 1 class last semester (grades 9-12) OR was below a 2.0 will be placed on SBLSD academic probation. They can play, grade check on the fourth (4th) Saturday of September (September 26 in 2026) to see if they are meeting standards. If they are not meeting standards, they are placed on academic suspension for 10% of the WIAA contest limit for their sport (i.e. for volleyball the WIAA contest limitation is 18 contests. So 10% of 18 is 1.8 contests. If the math results in a decimal .5

and above round up, less than .5 round down. So, the suspension period for a volleyball player is two (2) contests/matches). This suspension is to be served at the primary level that the student-athlete will be participating in. Once the suspension period ends the student-athlete can return to interscholastic competition as soon as they are meeting SBLSD requirements (passing all classes AND maintaining a minimum current 2.0 GPA).

WIAA Academic Standards/Athletic Probation Period/Academic Suspension-

- **All student-athletes must pass 5 out of 6 classes or equivalent.**

In the fall, an incoming 9th grade student is not required to meet the previous semester scholarship requirements provided they have met all other eligibility requirements. Student-athletes in grades 10–12 not meeting WIAA requirements (passing 5 out of 6 classes or equivalent) are placed on WIAA athletic probation through the fourth Saturday in September (September 26th in 2026). Any student-athlete who failed 2 or more last semester (grades 10-12) is placed on WIAA academic probation. They can play, grade check on the fourth (4th) Saturday of September (September 26th in 2026) to see if they are meeting WIAA standards (5 out of 6 classes or equivalent). If not, they are placed on academic suspension for three (3) weeks and are ineligible for interscholastic contests. Once the suspension period ends the student-athlete can return to interscholastic competition as soon as they are meeting SBLSD requirements (passing all classes AND maintaining a minimum current 2.0 GPA).

- **Fall In-Season Grade Check #1-** All student-athletes must meet SBLSD requirements (passing all classes AND maintaining a minimum current 2.0 GPA). Student-athletes are suspended from interscholastic competition until they meet SBLSD requirements.

Procedures:

- Email notification to families and coaches on Friday September 18th alerting them to the upcoming grade checks.
- Start Check- Thursday, September 24th
- New Eligibility List Generated- Between Friday September 25th and Monday September 28th.
- Student-athlete sits out starting- Monday, September 28th

- **Fall in-season Grade Check #2-** Same requirements/process as fall in-season grade check #1 above.

- Email notification to families and coaches on Monday, October 26th alerting them to the upcoming grade checks.
- Start Check- Thursday, November 5th
- New Eligibility List Generated- Between Thursday, November 5th and Monday, November 9th.
- Student-athlete sits out starting- Monday, November 9th.

WINTER SPORTS

For initial winter interscholastic competition eligibility, first-quarter grades will be used to determine whether student-athletes meet WIAA requirements (passing 5 out of 6 classes or equivalent) and SBLSD requirements (passing all classes AND maintaining a minimum current 2.0 GPA).

➤ **All student-athletes must pass all classes and maintain a minimum current 2.0 GPA.**

A student-athlete who failed one or more classes during the first quarter or had a GPA below 2.0 will be placed on SBLSD academic suspension and will be ineligible for interscholastic competition for 10% of the WIAA contest limit for the student's sport.

The suspension will be served at the primary level at which the student-athlete participates. After completing the suspension, the student-athlete may return to interscholastic competition once they are meeting SBLSD requirements: passing all classes AND maintaining a minimum current 2.0 GPA.

WIAA Academic Standards/Athletic Probation Period/Academic Suspension-

□ **All student-athletes must pass 5 out of 6 classes or equivalent.**

Student-athletes (grades 10-12) not meeting WIAA requirements (passing 5 out of 6 classes or equivalent) are placed on WIAA athletic probation through Thursday, January 7th.

Any student-athlete in grades 10–12 who failed two or more classes during the first quarter is placed on WIAA academic probation. The student-athlete may participate during the probationary period. Grades will be checked on Thursday, January 7th, to determine whether the student-athlete is meeting WIAA standards (passing 5 out of 6 classes or equivalent). If the student-athlete is not meeting WIAA standards, they are placed on academic suspension for 10% of the WIAA contest limit for their sport. Once the suspension period ends the student-athlete can return to interscholastic competition as soon as they are meeting SBLSD requirements (passing all classes AND maintaining a minimum current 2.0 GPA).

● **Winter in-season Grade Check #1-** All student-athletes must meet SBLSD requirements (passing all classes AND maintaining a minimum current 2.0 GPA). Student-athletes are suspended from interscholastic competition until they meet SBLSD requirements.

Procedures:

- Email notification to families and coaches on Friday, December 11th alerting them to the upcoming grade checks.
- Start Check- Thursday, January 7th
- New Eligibility List Generated- Between Friday, January 8th and Monday, January 11th.
- Student-athlete sits out starting- Monday, January 11th.

● **First Semester Grade Check-**

WIAA requirements/Athletic Suspension

Student-athletes who do not meet WIAA academic requirements (passing 5 out of 6 classes or equivalent) based on first-semester grades are placed on the applicable five-week WIAA athletic suspension and are ineligible for interscholastic competition during that period. For 2026–27, the five-week suspension period extends through March 1, 2027.

\SBLSD requirements/Suspension

Student-athletes not meeting SBLSD requirements (passing all classes AND maintaining a minimum current 2.0 GPA) are placed on SBLSD athletic suspension and are ineligible for interscholastic competition for 10% of the WIAA contest limitation for their sport (i.e. for basketball the WIAA contest limitation is 20 contests. So 10% of 20 is two (2) games- If the math results in a decimal .5 and above round up, less than .5 round down). This suspension is to be served at the primary level that the student-athlete will be participating in. Once the student-athlete has served the suspension they regain their eligibility IF they are meeting SBLSD requirements. If not, they remain suspended until they are meeting SBLSD requirements.

Procedures:

- Email notification to families and coaches on Friday, January 15th alerting them to the upcoming grade checks.
- Start Check- Thursday, January 28th
- New Eligibility List Generated- Between Friday, January 29th and Monday, February 1st.
- Student-athlete sits out starting- Monday, February 1st.

SPRING SPORTS

For initial spring interscholastic competition eligibility, first semester grades will be used to determine whether student-athletes meet SBLSD academic requirements.

SBLSD Academic Standards/Athletic Probation Period/Academic Suspension-

- All student-athletes must pass all classes and maintain a minimum current 2.0 GPA. Any student-athlete who failed 1 class last semester (grades 9-12) OR was below a 2.0 will be placed on SBLSD academic suspension and are ineligible for interscholastic competition for 10% of the WIAA contest limit for their sport (i.e. for baseball the WIAA contest limitation is 20 contests. So 10% of 20 is 2 contests (if the math results in a decimal .5 and above round up, less than .5 round down). This suspension is to be served at the primary level that the student-athlete will be participating in. Once the suspension period ends the student-athlete can return to interscholastic competition as soon as they are meeting SBLSD requirements (passing all classes AND maintaining a minimum current 2.0 GPA).

If the student-athlete played a sport in the winter and served a suspension then, they would not have to serve another suspension unless their current grades are not meeting SBLSD requirements. For example, Kelli's first semester grades did not meet requirements. She played basketball in the winter and served a suspension (either WIAA or SBLSD). Now she is playing fastpitch in the spring. As long as her current grades meet SBLSD requirements she is not required to serve another suspension. If her current grades do not meet SBLSD requirements, she would serve another SBLSD athletic suspension (10% of the WIAA contest limitation for her sport). Student-athletes who did not play a winter sport are to serve the SBLSD athletic suspension if they aren't meeting SBLSD requirements for semester 1 grades.

If the student-athlete is meeting SBLSD requirements at the end of their suspension period, they can return to interscholastic competition immediately. Student-athletes are not eligible to participate in interscholastic competition until they meet SBLSD requirements.

- **Spring in-season grade check-** Third-quarter grades will be used for the spring in-season grade check. All student-athletes must meet SBLSD requirements (passing all classes AND maintaining a minimum current 2.0 GPA). Student-athletes are suspended from interscholastic competition until they meet SBLSD requirements.

Procedures:

- Email notification to families and coaches on **Monday, March 22nd** alerting them to the upcoming grade checks.
- Start Check- **Thursday, April 1st**
- New Eligibility List Generated- Between **Friday, April 2nd and Monday, April 5th.**
- Student-athlete sits out starting- **Monday, April 5th.**

Coach initiated “in-season” grade checks

Coaches who conduct additional grade checks outside of the required WIAA/SBLSD grade-check schedule must notify their Building Athletic Coordinator.

If a grade check shows that a student-athlete is not meeting SBLSD requirements (passing all classes AND maintaining a minimum current 2.0 GPA), the coach must immediately notify the Building Athletic Coordinator. The student-athlete will be ineligible for interscholastic competition until SBLSD academic requirements are met.

Email Notification to families about academic requirements

Procedures:

- Email notification to families on June 1 alerting them to academic eligibility requirements for the upcoming fall season.

This document is a summary of the SBLSD and WIAA eligibility requirements. If there are questions, please contact your Building Athletic Coordinator.

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