

**ARKANSAS ACTIVITIES ASSOCIATION
PROPOSED
RULES AND REGULATIONS
ESTABLISHING THE ACADEMIC STANDARDS FOR
STUDENT PARTICIPATION IN
COMPETITIVE INTERSCHOLASTIC ACTIVITIES**

1.0 REGULATORY AUTHORITY

1.01 These regulations shall be known as Arkansas Activities Association Regulations Governing School District Academic Requirements for Student Participation in Competitive Interscholastic Activities.

2.0 PURPOSE

2.01 The purpose of these regulations is to set forth for school districts the standard for academic requirements for competitive interscholastic activity participation, which schools must meet in order to be accredited.

2.02 The further purpose of these regulations is to establish the academic standards for public school competitive interscholastic activities.

3.0 DEFINITIONS

3.01 “Competitive Interscholastic Activities” as used in these regulations mean those school-sponsored activities in which students from two or more schools are competing for the purpose of receiving an award, rating, recognition, criticism, or qualification for additional competition. These regulations apply to competitive interscholastic activities only.

3.02 “Supplemental Instruction Program” as used in these regulations means an additional instructional opportunity for identified students outside of their time in the regular classroom and is further defined as:

3.02.1 a program verified and certified by the administration of the local school district and the sponsors of the competitive interscholastic activities in which the school district participates, and

3.02.2 a program directed by a state-certified classroom teacher, and

3.02.3 a program which includes an assessment of the factors contributing to the student’s inadequate academic performance, and

- 3.02.4** a program designed to provide instruction specific to the needs of the student in subject areas where he is experiencing inadequate performance by providing assistance to the student by teachers, volunteers, or other students who are proficient in the identified subject areas and that the instruction is focused on improving the student's skills in the identified subject(s), and
- 3.02.5** a program which requires identified school personnel to contact the student's parent(s) or guardian(s) to explain the supplemental instruction program to discuss the recommended course of action to meet the needs of their student, and the identified school personnel is required to keep a record of the contact made and the responses of the parent(s) or guardian(s), and
- 3.02.6** a program with procedures defined by the local district for monitoring student progress that includes requiring a progress report to be filed each grading period from the classroom teacher(s) in the subject area(s) where the student's inadequate performance has occurred with the report(s) sent to and held by the district's appointed director of the program

3.03 "Academic courses" as used in these regulations means those courses that are identified in the Arkansas Department of Education's **Standards for Accreditation of Arkansas Public Schools** as one of the course offerings or is a definable course for which class time is scheduled and which can be credited to meet the minimum requirements for graduation and is taught by a teacher required to have state certification in the course, and has been approved by the Arkansas Department of Education. Any of these courses for which concurrent high school credit is earned may be from an institution of higher education recognized by the Arkansas Department of Education.

- 3.03.1** Physical education (PE) may be considered an academic course for one full credit within the 22 minimum credits required for graduation by the Arkansas Department of Education's **Standard for Accreditation of Arkansas Public Schools** and for eligibility purposes; the first time the PE grade appears on the transcript in grades 9-12 is when it will be considered an academic course.
- 3.03.2** A student may satisfy an academic requirement by successfully completing academic course(s) failed which must be repeated and passed; or academic course(s) needed; or an equivalent course(s) in a summer term(s); or a correspondence course(s) approved by the local school board for granting credit for graduation requirements. If the identical course(s) is/are taken in the regular school year, in summer school, or by correspondence, the better grade(s) may be substituted for computing the grade point average of the student for the previous semester.

3.03.3 If an academic course, as defined in Section 3.03, is scheduled for 90 minutes per day every day of the semester as in the case of schools set up on block schedules and the student passes the course, then that course can be counted twice toward meeting the requirement for students to pass four (4) academic courses as used in any following section.

4.0 STANDARD: COMPETITIVE INTERSCHOLASTIC ACTIVITIES POLICY

4.01 Each school district will adopt and operate by a written policy specifying the requirements for competitive interscholastic activity participation that will include, but will not be limited to, the requirements set forth herein in Section 5.00.

5.0 ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS FOR COMPETITIVE INTERSCHOLASTIC ACTIVITY PARTICIPATION

5.01 The State Standard Requirements for Junior High Effective Spring Semester, 1997-98 School Year. A student promoted from the sixth to the seventh grade automatically meets scholarship requirements. A student promoted from the seventh to the eighth grade automatically meets scholarship requirements for the first semester. The second semester eighth-grade student meets the scholarship requirements for junior high if he has successfully passed four (4) academic courses the previous semester, three (3) of which shall be in the core curriculum areas of math, science, social studies, and language arts specified by the Arkansas Department of Education's **Standards for Accreditation of Arkansas Public Schools**.

5.02 The first semester ninth-grade student meets the scholarship requirements for junior high if he has successfully passed four (4) academic courses the previous semester, three (3) of which shall be in the core curriculum area of math, science, social studies, and language arts specified by the Arkansas Department of Education's **Standards for Accreditation of Arkansas Public Schools**.

5.03 The second semester ninth-grade student meets the scholarship requirements for junior high if he has successfully passed four (4) academic courses the previous semester that count toward his graduation requirements.

5.04 Ninth-grade students must meet the requirements of the senior high scholarship rule as set forth herein in Sections 5.05 and 5.06 by the end of the second semester in the ninth grade in order to be eligible to participate the fall semester of their tenth-grade year.

5.05 The State Standard Requirements for Senior High Effective Spring Semester, 1997-98 School Year. In order to remain eligible for competitive interscholastic activity, a student must have passed four (4) academic courses and have a minimum GPA of 2.0 based on the previous semester.

5.05.1 Local school boards may request a waiver from the State Standard by submitting a plan following a required format to the Arkansas Activities Association to implement the procedures for a supplemental instruction program outlined in Section 5.06. The Arkansas Activities Association will review the plan and approve or disapprove the requested waiver.

5.06 If the student has passed four (4) academic courses the previous semester but does not meet any one of the requirements in Section 5.05, then the student must:

5.06.1 Be enrolled and attending a supplemental instruction program of at least 100 minutes duration each week outside the regular school day in the subject areas where inadequate performance has occurred.

and

Have no unexcused absences for the current semester or its equivalent and

Have no school disciplinary actions for the current semester or its equivalent or known criminal convictions. (felony)

5.06.2 A policy statement defining “school disciplinary action” for purposes of imposing a sanction under Section 5.06.1 shall be adopted by the local school board and distributed to the schools prior to enforcing a sanction. As a minimum, the policy shall state that when a student has been disciplined by being placed on suspension where he is out of school for a period of time will be defined as a “school disciplinary action” for the purposes of these regulations.

5.06.3 At the end of each semester grading period (December/January or May/June) if it is determined by the supplemental instruction program director that the student in the supplemental instruction program is not meeting the State Standard Requirements in Section 5.05.1 for participation in competitive interscholastic activities, the student must pass four academic courses and achieve a 2.0 grade point average to reestablish eligibility.

5.06.4 Student participation in the supplemental instruction program shall be limited to one year or two consecutive semesters while continuing to participate in competitive interscholastic activities. To maintain eligibility under the Supplemental Instruction Program, the student must show improvement of at least one tenth of one point in their GPA after the first semester of participation in the supplemental program. To continue to participate following the second semester in the Supplemental Instruction Program, the student must have reached the 2.0 GPA.

- 5.06.5** Should the student fail to achieve a grade point average of 2.0 within that time, he will not be permitted to participate in competitive interscholastic activities.
- 5.06.6** Sanctions. If at any point the student falls out of compliance with any criteria in Section 5.06.1 during the semester, the student will be immediately suspended from competition for the remainder of the semester. In order for the student to reestablish eligibility, he/she must pass four academic courses and achieve a 2.0 grade point average. If a student fails to participate in the supplemental instruction program during any semester, then eligibility can only be regained by the student earning a grade point average of 2.0 from all academic courses the previous semester.
- 5.06.7** If a student is declared ineligible at the end of the fall semester and only participates in interscholastic competitive activities during the fall semester, he must be placed in the supplemental instruction program and meet the requirements in Section 5.06.1 during the spring semester in order to be considered for eligibility the following fall. The same requirement applies to a student who only participates in spring semester activities. He must be placed in the supplemental instruction program and meet the requirements in Section 5.06.1 during the next fall semester in order to be considered for eligibility in the following spring.
- 5.06.8** For the purposes of meeting the supplemental instruction requirement in Section 5.06.1, a “week” shall be considered to begin and end with the close of the official school day on Friday.
- 5.06.9** Any school district that would like to submit an alternative proposal for providing the supplemental instruction program during the school day, may request a waiver from the Arkansas Activities Association for this requirement. These waiver requests will be considered by the Arkansas Activities Association on a school-by-school basis. School officials seeking this waiver may need to appear before the Arkansas Activities Association at a regularly scheduled meeting.
- 5.06.10** Any school which requested and received a waiver as described in 5.06.9 from the Arkansas Activities Association following the effective date of the 1997 revisions will not have to reapply for this waiver as of the effective date of the 2000 revisions.
- 5.06.11** Reporting requirement: At the end of each semester, any school with an approved supplemental instruction program must file a report with the Arkansas Activities Association online at www.ahsaa.org.

5.06.12 Any school with an approved supplemental instruction program must maintain accurate documentation on all participating students. Documentation will include the student academic plans, attendance, entering and exiting grade points, program participation, students dropping out of the program, and other requirements as stated in this regulation. Other items may include work samples and tests.

5.07 Students with disabilities under IDEA function under conditions specified in their Individualized Education Program (IEP) in order to be considered eligible to participate in competitive interscholastic activities. In order to be considered eligible to participate in these activities, students with disabilities must pass at least four (4) courses required by the student's IEP.

5.08 The regulations as set forth herein in Sections 5.01 through 5.07 establish the minimum academic requirements for participation.

5.09 Noncompetitive interscholastic activity participation is not affected by these regulations.

6.0 PENALTY

6.01 Any school which allows a student to participate in a competitive interscholastic activity who is ineligible as defined by these rules and regulations must report such a violation immediately upon discovery of the violation to the Arkansas Activities Association

6.02 These regulations establish the minimum requirements a school district's policy on competitive interscholastic activity participation must meet in order for schools in the district to be accredited. Local school districts are not precluded from implementing higher standards in their efforts to improve student achievement.