

## **Interscholastic Activities Eligibility**

The Board recognizes the integral role interscholastic activities play in the character development and general enhancement of the education of its students. As such, the Medford School District seeks to connect students to academics using athletics and activities as an integral part of each student's education.

The district encourages and supports student involvement in interscholastic activities with the expectation this is a privilege a student earns by meeting the standards set forth by the Medford School District.

### **ASSUMPTIONS AND GUIDING PRINCIPLES**

#### **Behavioral Expectations**

1. Students will follow school codes of conduct and the Medford School District Extracurricular Code of Conduct.
2. Students who violate the Code will receive consequences. Each situation will be viewed as a learning opportunity when the student takes responsibility for the violation.

#### **Attendance**

1. Students will attend class and make up work missed from absences caused by athletics and activities in a reasonable time frame.
2. Athletics and activities will be used to help students learn time management skills.

#### **Academics**

1. Students will make progress toward graduation.
2. When progress is not on track, interventions and plans will be put into place.
3. The essential academic support system will include the student, teacher, parent/guardian, and school.

### **PARTICIPATION REQUIREMENTS**

Before the first practice, for middle school athletics or high school OSAA athletics, students must have on file:

1. An athletic physical by an Oregon physician with information filled out on the state form. This is good for two years.
2. Proof of student insurance.
3. Parent/guardian permission to participate unless the student is 18 years of age and can sign their own permission.
4. Signed Extracurricular Code of Conduct by student and parent/guardian.
5. Emergency medical and contact information.

## **MIDDLE SCHOOL ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS**

A student must be attending the middle school full-time to be eligible. A full-time student is defined as one who attends the number of classes offered by the school during the school schedule.

Students must attend school on the day of the athletic event or activity to be eligible.

There are no grade requirements to be eligible, but coaches, teachers, and/or athletic directors may communicate expectations and make plans to encourage students to make academics a priority to participate.

The District shall allow resident homeschooled and resident public charter school students to participate in available interscholastic activities in compliance with state law. Resident private school students are not eligible to participate.

The District will uphold any rules and regulations of voluntary associations related to interscholastic activities of which the District is a formal member. This includes, but is not limited to, the Southern Oregon Middle School Athletic Conference (SOMSAC).

## **HIGH SCHOOL ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS**

***Note:** Students who are interested in participating in college athletics will need to meet NCAA or NAIA standards. These standards change over time so it is important for student-athletes and their parents/guardians to be aware the standards are different from those required by Oregon Schools Activities Association and/or the Medford School District.*

### **Basic Requirements**

The District will uphold any rules and regulations of voluntary associations related to interscholastic activities of which the district is a formal member. This includes, but is not limited to, the Oregon School Activities Association (OSAA).

To participate in high school OSAA activities, the student must meet OSAA rules and regulations, Oregon Revised Statutes and the Medford School District's eligibility standards.

### **OSAA High School Age Requirements**

A student who becomes 19 before August 15 shall become ineligible for interscholastic competition.

A student who becomes 19 on or after August 15 shall remain eligible for that entire school year.

Students who are not eligible may use the Age Hardship Appeals Procedure within OSAA guidelines. Students seeking eligibility who do not meet the age requirement may not practice until eligibility is granted from the OSAA and may not participate in any contest.

### **OSAA Years of Eligibility**

A student may participate in the interscholastic program for four consecutive years (eight semesters or the equivalent) after entering the ninth grade.

## **OSAA Academic Eligibility**

Three standards must be met to be eligible:

1. Current grading period.
2. Previous grading period.
3. Satisfactory progress toward graduation .

### **Current Grading Period**

A student must be attending the high school full-time to be eligible. A student becomes ineligible upon graduating from high school.

Full-time is defined as enrolled in high school, attending regularly and passing in courses offered by the high school, which may also include college, work experience, or other school approved educational activities (including summer school or night school) in a minimum of five classes equivalent to 1.25 quarter credits.

### **Previous Grading Period**

A full-time student shall have been enrolled in school, attended regularly and passed subjects equivalent to 2.5 credits in the previous semester grading period.

Any academic eligibility standards that need summer school credits earned or credits recovered from courses previously enrolled in must be on the transcript before credits count toward being academically eligible to participate in any contests. Summer school credits must be on the transcript before the first day school starts to count for eligibility for the upcoming school year.

### **Satisfactory Progress Toward Graduation**

Students are required to be on track to graduate. The OSAA defines this “satisfactory progress” as earning 4.5 credits by the beginning of the sophomore year, 10 by the beginning of the junior year, and 17 by the beginning of the senior year. This means credits must be on the transcript prior to the first day of school to be eligible for the entire school year.

Students who do not meet academic eligibility may ask the school to apply for eligibility through a process seeking eligibility through a “hardship.” At the school’s discretion, students may be asked to meet a plan before the hardship is requested. Applying for a hardship eligibility is a school decision. Hardship eligibilities require weekly grade and attendance checks.

Students may practice but are not eligible to participate in contests until the hardship eligibility is granted.

### **District Grade Requirements and Plans of Assistance**

In addition to the OSAA standards, students participating in interscholastic activities who receive one or more “F” grades at the end of a quarter will be placed on academic probation for the next quarter.

The cutoff for determining academic probation and suspension for each grading period will be the first date following the grading period when incomplete grades are turned to F grades.

While on academic probation, students will be eligible to participate in interscholastic activities. During the academic probation period, the student-athlete will meet with a school representative to discuss their current academic standing and future consequences if there is no improvement.

If at the conclusion of the next quarter grading period, the student has all grades above an “F,” the student shall be removed from academic probationary status.

If, on the other hand, the student received another “F” grade in any class, he/she immediately receives academic suspension and is put on a Plan of Assistance. The Athletic Coordinator/Activities Director will determine the point at which the student may or may not participate in activities.

The school Athletic Coordinator/Activities Director will meet with the student and require a Plan of Assistance consisting, at a minimum, of weekly grade and attendance checks with the expectation of no unexcused absences to be eligible week to week. The purpose will be to help students be successful and make academics the priority. Timelines, responsibilities and components of the plan will be clearly defined.

Exception:

If, in the opinion of the building principal, circumstances beyond the control of the student and/or teacher have caused the failing grade, or other extenuating conditions exist, the principal may allow a conditional eligibility waiver provided all OSAA regulations have been met. A progress report grade may be considered if it shows improvement. A plan of assistance may also be put in place with weekly grade and attendance checks.

### **District High School Attendance Requirements**

The student may not have any unexcused absences the day of or the day after a scheduled event. If the student misses the day of or after an event, he/she will not be eligible to participate in the next scheduled contest unless cleared by the principal, Athletic Coordinator/Activities Director or designee.

### **Residency Eligibility for OSAA Activities**

It is a Fundamental Rule of the OSAA that a student must attend the high school in the high school attendance boundary within which the Joint Residence of the student and the student’s parents is located. Exceptions to this Fundamental Rule are to be narrowly construed.

Students who are full-time students who attend Central, North or South Medford High School who reside in the North or South Medford attendance areas may participate in athletics and activities. Permanent residence is verified by procedures in administrative regulation JC-AR (1) and boundaries defined by administrative regulation JC-AR (2).

Students who attend Central Medford High School may participate in their respective resident high school provided the student meets all OSAA eligibility rules and Central Medford High School maintains OSAA Associate Member status.

The District shall allow resident homeschooled and resident public charter school student to participate in available interscholastic activities in compliance with state law and OSAA rules and regulations. Resident private school students are not eligible to participate.

## **Resident Homeschooled Student Eligibility Procedures**

“Homeschooled student” means a child who is taught by a private teacher, a parent or a legal guardian, as described in ORS 339.030.

A homeschooled student who participates in interscholastic activities must reside within the attendance boundaries of the school at which the student participates.

All middle school and high school homeschooled students are required to:

1. Provide proof of residency.
2. Have on file, in the school office, forms showing Home School Student/Parent Request, Medford School District Home School Verification, and ESD Home Schooling Notification.
3. Meet all requirements of ORS 339.460 including but not limited to completion of annual testing assessments. The student may participate while awaiting examination results.

To determine eligibility for OSAA activities, the OSAA Home School Eligibility Parent Checklist must be completed and filed with the school office. In order for a home school student to represent an OSAA member school in competition, the student must satisfy all relevant requirements included in the home school statutes (ORS 339.030, ORS 339.035, ORS 339.460) including but not limited to the following:

1. Notification of Intent to Home School. The home school student shall notify the local education service district (ESD) within ten days of withdrawal from the public school and prior to the first day of the school year.
2. Meet school district eligibility requirements. The home school student shall meet all school district eligibility requirements with the exception of:
  - a. School district’s school or class attendance requirements, and
  - b. OSAA academic eligibility requirements dealing with number of credits required per grading period.
3. Meet school district responsibilities and standards of behavior and performance. The home school student shall be required to fulfill the same responsibilities and standards of behavior and performance, including related class or practice requirements, of other students participating in the interscholastic activity of the team or squad and shall be required to meet the same standards for acceptance on the team or squad. The home school student also shall comply with all school requirements during the time of participation.
4. In lieu of satisfying the OSAA academic eligibility requirements dealing with number of credits required per grading period, the home school student shall achieve a minimum score on the achievement test required annually at the end of the school year (by August 15) of all home school students wishing to participate in activities. The minimum, composite test score as determined by the State Board of Education is the 23rd percentile. The score is used to determine eligibility for the following school year.

**Any home school student who has been unable to maintain academic eligibility prior to transferring to a home school shall be ineligible to participate in interscholastic activities as a home school student for the duration of the school year in which the student becomes academically ineligible and for the following year.** The student may take the required tests at the end of the second year and, upon meeting the minimum test score standards, becomes eligible for the third year.

### **Procedures for Resident Public Charter School Students**

“Public charter school” is defined in ORS 338.005.

A public charter school student who participates in interscholastic activities must reside within the attendance boundaries of the school at which the student participates.

Before all middle school and high school public charter school students may participate, the following conditions must be met:

1. Current enrollment at a public charter school is verified.
2. An agreement is in place between the public charter school and the District regarding fees to be paid by the public charter school as provided in ORS 339.460.
3. Proof of residency is verified.
4. Student meets all district eligibility requirements.
5. Other conditions:
  - a. Middle school activities:
    - (1) Public charter school attended by the student does not offer the activity.
    - (2) Participation meets rules set by the SOMSAC or other voluntary organization related to the interscholastic activity.
  - b. High school OSAA Activities:
    - (1) The student attends a public charter school that is an Associate Member of the OSAA not a full member school.
    - (2) OSAA eligibility requirements are met, including but not limited to:
      - (a) Completion of the OSAA School Representation Eligibility Certificate.
      - (b) Enrolled full-time during the last grading period.
      - (c) Attending regularly during the last grading period.
      - (d) An official high school transcript is provided demonstrating credits required by the OSAA (“Satisfactory Progress Toward Graduation” standard is based on the credits required for graduation of the public charter school not the Medford School District credits to graduate).

- c. Other high school interscholastic activities:
  - (1) Public charter school attended by the student does not offer the activity.
  - (2) Participation meets rules set by any voluntary associations related to interscholastic activities of which the District is a formal member.

Once participating, all resident public charter school students are required to meet school district responsibilities and standards of behavior and performance. The public charter school student shall be required to fulfill the same responsibilities and standards of behavior and performance, including related class or practice requirements, of other students participating in the interscholastic activity of the team or squad and shall be required to meet the same standards for acceptance on the team or squad. The public charter school student also shall comply with all school requirements during the time of participation.

A public charter school student, who does not maintain academic eligibility, is ineligible to participate in interscholastic activities for the duration of the school year in which the student becomes academically ineligible and potentially for the following year.

### **Transfers to a School with Affiliation**

Despite compliance with the other provisions of OSAA rules, a high school student who attends, participates or was eligible to participate for a school, and then transfers to another school is ineligible for one calendar year from the last date of participating or receiving instruction as described below under any of the following circumstances:

The student transfers from a home school, public, private or charter school within one calendar year after:

1. Participating in non-school athletics (e.g. AAU, American Legion, club team, or other non-school teams) on a team affiliated with the school to which the student transfers or may represent. A “team affiliated with the school” is defined by OSAA as team with more than half the number of students on the team’s roster or regularly participating in practices or contests are from that school.

AND/OR

2. Receiving athletic or activities instruction, including weight training and conditioning, from a person affiliated with the school to which the student transfers or may represent. A coach is defined by the OSAA as anyone paid or volunteer involved in coaching a team that has contact with students more than three times in a sports season.

**EXCEPTIONS:** The eligibility of a full member private school student who transfers to a public school at which the student has previously been a participant in a school sport or activity is not affected by this rule for said sport or activity.

The eligibility of an Associate Member school student who transfers to or from a public school at which the student has previously been a participant in a school sport or activity is not affected by this rule for said sport or activity.

The eligibility of a home school student who transfers to or from a public or private school at which the student has previously been a participant in a school sport or activity or was eligible to participate in a school sport or activity is not affected by this rule for said sport or activity.

**To prevent affiliation, which results in loss of eligibility, an OSAA “Intent to Transfer” form must be filled out and filed with the receiving school prior to any communication or instruction with a coach of the school the student intends to represent. This includes, but is not limited to, summer camps and non-school athletic teams affiliated with the school and/or coaches. Students and parents are not bound to transfer once they have filled out the form.**

**Students who are entering the ninth grade for the first time are exempt from the affiliation rule and are not required to complete the Intent to Transfer form.**

### **Non-Resident Students**

Exceptions listed below may be eligible provided OSAA procedures are followed and the student meets OSAA eligibility rules:

1. Students who have the right to attend the school in accordance with the McKinney-Vento Act.
2. Students who are wards of the court. A student who is otherwise eligible does not become ineligible by virtue of being made a ward of the court and placed in a residence (such as a foster home) in a different attendance boundary, except a student made a ward of the court under ORS 419C.555 (Juvenile Code).
3. Transfer students entering as a ninth grader. A student is eligible to participate at a school other than the high school in the high school attendance boundary within which Joint Residence of the student and the student’s parents is located when the student first enters the ninth grade.
4. Foreign exchange students on CSJET approved programs. Requires completion of OSAA Foreign Student Eligibility Checklist.

**All other students who change schools must meet OSAA rules to be eligible. The following reflects OSAA policy and is not intended to supersede any future revisions by the OSAA:**

**Between school year change of schools by non-resident students,** students who transfer between school years may be eligible if the student transfers:

1. To a charter school and maintains joint residence within the Medford School District.
2. The student transfers back to the public school within the attendance boundary of joint residence.
3. The student transfers between schools within the Medford School District (Intradistrict Transfer) with an approved transfer and maintains joint residence in the district.
4. The student transfers between Oregon school districts under terms of an Interdistrict Transfer agreement and maintains joint residence (a student is released by the resident school district superintendent and is accepted by the receiving school superintendent).

Students who have been enrolled in the district on an Interdistrict Transfer for at least one year may remain under Open Enrollment and maintain eligibility under the OSAA continuity of enrollment provision.

Students who transfer between school years under Open Enrollment and are not released by their home district will NOT be eligible for one calendar year under current OSAA transfer rules. Schools may apply for reinstatement of eligibility if there are extenuating circumstances.

### **Mid-year Change of Schools**

A student who transfers during the school year without a move of the student's parents is ineligible for one calendar year unless the student becomes eligible at an earlier date based upon an exception listed in OSAA Rule 8.6.3.

The exception is a transfer between a full member school and an Associate Member school, a full member school and home school, an Associate Member school and home school, or an Associate Member school and an Associate Member school, and when the school of representation does not change, the student remains eligible to participate at the school of representation.

### **Violations, Consequences and Remuneration**

A student in violation of the OSAA and/or Medford School District rules and regulations may be subject to discipline, up to and including, dismissal from his/her interscholastic program, suspension, and/or expulsion from school.

Any dishonest information or misrepresentations provided by the student or parent/guardian will be cause for immediate release from the activity and future activities. Violations or possible violations will be reported to OSAA. Students and/or parents/guardians in violation of OSAA rules and/or regulations may be required to remunerate the District in the event of fines assessed by the OSAA as a result of their actions. Students who participate in contests who are ineligible will cause forfeitures for the individual and/or team.

## High School OSAA Activities Eligibility Chart

Ineligibility Status Descriptions	Reason	May the student participate in practice?	May student the student be in uniform on the bench or participate in contests?
Ineligible for activities: Age (OSAA)	Turned 19 years old before August 15	No	No
Ineligible for activities: 4 years eligibility (OSAA)	Exceeded 16 consecutive quarters in high school	No	No
Ineligible for activities: Did not pass enough classes (OSAA)	A student must have passed 10 classes in the prior two quarters of school with no less than 2.5 credits in those two quarters.	Yes	No
Ineligible for activities: Not on track to graduate (OSAA)	Student must have earned a minimum number of credits by the start of each academic year: 4.5 credits by 10th grade, 10 credits by 11th grade, and 17 credits by 12th grade.	Yes	No
Ineligible for activities: Not taking enough classes (OSAA)	A student must be currently enrolled in five classes equivalent to 1.25 credits per quarter.	Yes	No
Academic probation for activities: F grade (IGDJ-AR)	Student received an F grade in prior quarter.	Yes	As long as OSAA requirements are met or a hardship eligibility had been granted.
Ineligible for activities: Consecutive F grades (District IGDJ-AR)	Student had F grade in two consecutive quarters.	Yes	Only if OSAA eligible and successfully meeting Plan of Assistance to be contest eligible
Ineligible for activities for one school year: Temporary move to another school (OSAA)	A student may become ineligible if it is determined that the student made a temporary move to another school attendance area, then moved back to the previous residence after the school year and applied for a transfer based on "continuation of enrollment."-	Yes	No

### IGDJ-AR References:

OSAA Handbook

ORS 339.030 Exemptions from compulsory school attendance

ORS 339.460 Homeschooled and public charter school students' participation in interscholastic activities

OSAA Open Enrollment Position Memo