

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE DEPENDENTS SCHOOLS OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR, EUROPE UNIT 29649, Box 7000 APO AE 09002-7000



July 16, 2010 10-EUR-002

MEMORANDUM FOR DISTRICT SUPERINTENDENTS PRINCIPALS

SUBJECT: DoDDS-Europe Academic Eligibility Policy for Extra-Curricular Activities and Interscholastic Athletic Programs

References: (a) DoDEA Regulation 2740.1, "Interscholastic Athletic Program," July, 2006

(b) DoDDS-E Manual 2740.2, "Interscholastic Athletic Program Manual," July 2010

This memorandum clarifies and establishes the academic eligibility policy for student participation in DoDDS Europe extra-curricular activities and in the DoDDS-Europe Interscholastic Athletic Program (IAP). The purpose of this policy is to ensure uniformity, encourage student participation in school activities, and achieve sound educational objectives within the DoDDS Europe IAP and extra-curricular programs. The requirements of this program apply to all DoDDS Europe schools and offices.

The DoDDS-E Interscholastic Athletic Program (IAP) includes any school or DoDDS sponsored program which provides opportunity for students to participate in an organized sports program. This may include: basketball, cross country, football, golf, gymnastics, soccer, tennis, track and field, volleyball, wrestling, cheerleading, JROTC rifle team, softball/baseball, and swimming. The DoDDS-E Student Activities Program includes any school or DoDDS sponsored extra-curricular program, club, or event which is not a part of the regular curricular offering, for which no academic grade is assigned, and in which student participation is voluntary.

To maintain eligibility for participation in the DoDDS-E IAP or Student Activities Program students must meet the following academic standards:

- A minimum GPA of 2.0 and no more than one failing grade. Semester grades will be used to
 determine eligibility for the fall and spring sport or activity seasons. First quarter grades will
 be used to determine eligibility for the winter sport or activity season. This policy will
 ensure that all students are on track to meet graduation requirements.
- 2. The initial eligibility for the activity or sport season will be determined by the semester or quarter grades as outlined above.
- 3. All students will be monitored for D's and F's on a weekly basis throughout the activity or season. Students who have more than one failing grade in classes in which they are enrolled are ineligible for competition and participation. A student participant who has been identified

as being ineligible for three consecutive weeks may be dropped from the team or activity. Grades during the period of monitoring will be cumulative from the beginning of each quarter. If a sport season or activity carries over from one quarter to the next then the quarter grades will be used to determine eligibility for the week following the end of the quarter.

- 4. All incoming ninth grade students are eligible for the fall sports or activity season if they are not failing more than one class weekly.
- Students who participate in activities for which air travel tickets are purchased, <u>other than athletics</u>, such as Honors Band and Choir and Creative Connections, cannot be declared ineligible within three weeks prior to the event.

A request for reinstatement of eligibility may be made by students who do not meet the GPA requirement after the first three weeks of ineligibility. This request must be supported by demonstrated academic achievement which meets the basic eligibility requirement of 2.0 GPA and no more than one failing grade. The GPA of students who are reinstated will continue to be monitored every three weeks through the end of the season to ensure students maintain eligibility requirements. Students unable to maintain eligibility after reinstatement will become ineligible for the remainder of the season or activity.

Schools may not establish additional academic eligibility criteria. Schools will provide intervention support services to students who have been identified as having academic difficulty. Examples of these support services include, but are not limited to, monitoring sessions, tutoring, and before and after school study halls or instruction, to name a few. Each school is to develop a specific plan for monitoring grade eligibility; however, to achieve uniformity, all schools must complete grade checks by 4 p.m. every Tuesday of each week that interscholastic or activity programs are being held. A student declared ineligible on the Tuesday grade check will be ineligible from Wednesday 8 a.m. through the following Wednesday 8 a.m.

A letter of exception to this policy may be submitted to the Director, DoDDS-E IAP or the Director, DoDDS-E Student Activity Program for changing the day. This request must be based upon unique needs. A student declared ineligible may practice but is not authorized to participate in scrimmages, competition, be in school uniform at a scheduled event, or travel with the team or club to any away event. Scholastic eligibility may be waived for students at the discretion of the Principal if the student is identified as "special needs" by the Case Study Committee and the Individual Education Program is on file. All other eligibility requirements such as age and number of semesters must be met.

This procedure is effective immediately and remains in effect until rescinded.

Nancy C. Bresell

Director, DoDDS-Europe

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