

**CHARLOTTE-MECKLENBURG SCHOOLS**  
**ATHLETIC ELIGIBILITY FACT SHEET**  
***AM I ELIGIBLE TO PARTICIPATE?***

Rev 7/13/11

**GENERAL**

- Only students in grades 7-12 may participate in interscholastic competition (State Board of Education Regulation).
- Shall not participate if he/she becomes 19 years of age (high school) or 15 years of age (middle school) on or before August 31 of said school year.
- Shall not participate if convicted of a crime classified as a felony under North Carolina or federal law.
- Must receive a medical examination each year (365 days) by a duly licensed physician, nurse practitioner or physician assistant.
- A high school student has eight (8) consecutive semesters of possible athletic eligibility. The eight semester clock begins with the student's entry into the ninth grade or participation on a high school team, whichever occurs first. For student's who skip the ninth grade and advance directly to the 10th from the eighth, the year prior to entering the 10th grade is considered the first year of entry into ninth grade for athletics. Must be promoted from the grade attended the previous year. (A middle school student has four (4) consecutive semesters of athletic eligibility. The four semester clock begins with the student's first entry into the seventh grade.)
- Student *and* parents, legal custodians and/or legal guardians must attend a pre-season sport meeting at their school.
- Student *and* parents, legal custodians and/or legal guardians must sign the honor code.

**RESIDENCY**

- Must be currently legally enrolled in a CMS school.
- The address of the biological parent(s) is considered the address of record for a student in determining athletic eligibility = home school. The home school is the school that serves the area where the student lives.
- The parent/legal custodian must present two (2) valid residency documentations to establish a home school.
- If the parents do not reside together, and in the absence of court ordered parental custody, where both parents agree on joint custody of the student, the parents must designate the parental address of record for the student. Signed documentation (of the address of record) by both parents must be in the student's cum folder.
- A court order is required to establish legal custodianship or legal guardianship. A letter from a parent or attorney, even if notarized, does not confer custody or guardianship.
- A student who does not live with biological parents, legal custodian, or legal guardian because of serious hardship can apply for hardship caregiver status and request to live with another adult and enroll in the school that serves this address. Strict documentation of the family situation is required to determine hardship status.
- Student-athletes who do not attend their home school on the first day of school in the 9<sup>th</sup> grade establish a "sports school" at which they are eligible to participate in interscholastic athletics if they meet all state and local eligibility requirements.

**CHANGE IN RESIDENCE**

- A student who does not move/change address, but requests and is granted a different school assignment = transfer. A transfer student must sit 365 days to become athletically eligible at the transfer school.
- A student who does not move/change address, but requests and is granted a different school assignment (transfer) after establishing a sports school, unless the new school is the student's home school, is ineligible for 365 days.
- A student who does not move/change address, but requests and is granted a different school assignment (transfer), after establishing a home school is ineligible for 365 days.
- A student who requests and is granted a transfer from a magnet program on one high school campus to another program on the same high school campus must sit 365 days to become athletically eligible.
- A student who physically moves and changes addresses during the school year can either remain at the current school to finish the school year or attend the school in their new home area. In either case, they are eligible to participate in athletics for the remainder of the year if they meet all state and local eligibility requirements. The student will be assigned to their new home school for the next school year. Exception: A student who moves to a new address after the beginning of their 11<sup>th</sup> grade year, can remain at the current school as a 12<sup>th</sup> grader and be eligible for athletic participation if they meet all state and local eligibility requirements.
- A student-athlete is prohibited from playing the same sport at two schools during the same sport season, even if the second school is the student's home school.

**ACADEMICS**

- Must have passed a minimum load of work from the previous semester. For athletic eligibility purposes, a minimum load is defined as passing three out of four courses in a 4x4 format (or six out of eight courses in the A/B format) of block scheduling during the traditional school day.
- Must have earned a 2.0 GPA from previous semester.
- Must have 85% attendance from previous semester (13 or less days).
- The 2.0 eligibility rule will be waived if (1) I.E.P. goals are being met; (2) satisfactory progress is being made in mainstreamed classes, and (3) has the principal's recommendation.
- Grades received in summer school that are repeated from failed year courses may be substituted for 2<sup>nd</sup> semester grades when computing the athletic grade point averages for fall competition.