

Bylaw 5. Minimum Academic Requirement

Sec. 1) Proper Grade Level Requirement for Students in All School Districts

On the first day of each school year, a student must be at his/her proper grade level. To be considered to be at the proper grade level, a student must have been enrolled during the previous grading period, and must be on schedule to graduate on the first day of school. For the verification of this provision, all course work, including summer and correspondence work, must be complete by the first day of the school year for the student body.

a) Eligibility During First Year Following Initial Enrollment in Grade Nine (9)

For a student in the ninth grade to be considered to be on schedule to graduate, that student must have been promoted from grade eight (8) to grade nine (9), and be in compliance with all other bylaws.

b) Eligibility During Second Year Following Initial Enrollment in Grade Nine (9)

For a student in the second year following initial enrollment in grade nine (9) (normally grade 10) to be on schedule to graduate, that student must have received twenty (20) percent of the requirements of the school/district for graduation prior to the first day of the second year following initial enrollment in grade nine (9), and be in compliance with all other bylaws.

c) Eligibility During Third Year Following Initial Enrollment in Grade Nine (9)

For a student in the third year following initial enrollment in grade nine (9) (normally grade 11) to be on schedule to graduate, that student must have received forty-five (45) percent of the requirements of the school/district for graduation prior to the first day of the third year following initial enrollment in grade nine (9), and be in compliance with all other bylaws.

d) Eligibility During Fourth Year Following Initial Enrollment in Grade Nine (9)

For a student in the fourth year following initial enrollment in grade nine (9) (normally grade 12) to be on schedule to graduate, that student must have received seventy (70) percent of the requirements of the school/district for graduation prior to the first day of the fourth year following initial enrollment in grade nine (9), and be in compliance with all other bylaws.

Sec. 2) One-time Reinstatement of Students Failing to Meet Normal Progress Requirements

The eligibility of a student failing to meet the provisions of subsections (a) through (d) above may be reinstated a maximum of one time. This reinstatement is possible by the student passing twenty-five (25) percent of the requirements of the district for graduation during the year he/she is ineligible. He/she, upon reinstatement, shall remain eligible as long as he/she passes twenty-five (25) percent of the requirements of the district for graduation during each subsequent year.

Sec. 3) Continual Progress During the School Year

On a weekly basis, a student shall also be passing (cumulatively for the credit period) in at least four hours of instruction as defined by Kentucky Board of Education regulations (of the six hours of instruction required) or the equivalent of four hours of instruction acceptable to graduation in order to be eligible to participate in athletics during the subsequent week (Monday through Sunday period) and through the next opportunity to examine grades in this manner. On its membership form, each member school shall designate the day of the week, approved and documented through local policies, that the grades shall be examined for the student-athletes within that school in order to make this determination. Absent any other determination, this weekly check of grades shall be conducted on each Friday of each grading period or on the last day of classes preceding that particular Friday if no classes are conducted on that particular Friday. No special tests or recitations are to be given for the purpose of making the student eligible.

Sec. 4) Pre-Secondary School Students

Pre-secondary school students (grades 1-8) participating in athletics representing a KHSAA member school shall be passing in at least two-thirds of the subjects in which they are currently enrolled in order to be eligible.

(Case situations related to this bylaw appear on pages 19 through 43 of this Handbook)

CASE SITUATIONS RELATED TO THE BYLAWS of the KENTUCKY HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION

Contained in this section of the KHSAA Handbook are interpretations and rulings which have been made in accordance with applicable provisions of the KHSAA Bylaws. This section is printed as a supplement to the actual printed rules and does not in any manner substitute for the actual rule. Many of these rulings have established precedent for the interpretation or enforcement of these provisions, and remain in place until further altered, re-interpreted, or otherwise set aside. Specific inquiries not addressed by these interpretations should be submitted in writing to the Commissioner of the KHSAA, 2280 Executive Drive, Lexington, KY 40505. Interpretive questions or eligibility rulings will not be addressed via electronic mail and must be requested and issued in writing. The following table represents cross-referencing to the relevant portions of the KHSAA Handbook.

Case BL-5-1- Why is there a Minimum Academic Requirement as contained in Bylaw 5?

Participants in the interscholastic athletic program are expected to be student-athletes. High school sports are not intended to be a "farm team" for college and professional sports, but a complementary activity to the total learning experience. Standards must be in place to ensure that in addition to sports participation, a student must be on schedule to graduate with his/her class. As class systems change (block and other alternative schedules), these requirements must be continually reviewed to make certain that all students are meeting the necessary requirements to graduate from high school and be positive contributors to society. Athletics serves as a deterrent for many students to become involved in less-desirable elements of society. A young person must be a student first and an athlete second.

Case BL-5-2- How is Section 1 of Bylaw 5 interpreted to determine eligibility of a student on the first day of school? On the first day of school, guidance counselors or other personnel should use the following chart to determine eligibility based on the local districts requirements for graduation.

Any number of credits required which cannot be matched directly to the credits of the school must be rounded to the next possible number. For example, if 9.45 is required, but the school only gives half and full credits, 9.5 would be required. If that same school only gave full credits, 10 would be required.

Graduation Requirement	First Year (Normally Grade 9)	Second Year (Normally Grade 10)	Third Year (Normally Grade 11)	Fourth Year (Normally Grade 12)	Required to Reinstate after complete year ineligible
20	Promoted from 8	4.00	9.00	14.00	5.00
21	Promoted from 8	4.20	9.45	14.70	5.25
22	Promoted from 8	4.40	9.90	15.40	5.50
23	Promoted from 8	4.60	10.35	16.10	5.75
24	Promoted from 8	4.80	10.80	16.80	6.00
25	Promoted from 8	5.00	11.25	17.50	6.25
26	Promoted from 8	5.20	11.70	18.20	6.50
27	Promoted from 8	5.40	12.15	18.90	6.75
28	Promoted from 8	5.60	12.60	19.60	7.00
29	Promoted from 8	5.80	13.05	20.30	7.25
30	Promoted from 8	6.00	13.50	21.00	7.50
31	Promoted from 8	6.20	13.95	21.70	7.75
32	Promoted from 8	6.40	14.40	22.40	8.00

Case BL-5-3- How are credit hours and credits computed when a student changes from a traditional format to an alternative format school (i.e. 6 hour day to block schedule day) or vice-versa?

A student's eligibility status must be determined by converting either to or from the traditional system when dealing with transfer students. This must be done in accordance with accepted policy for computing graduation progress, and no special consideration can be given to student athletic participants.

In the case of a school raising or changing its graduation requirements, according to past meetings of guidance counselor

focus groups, this conversion can be done by taking the number of credits required for graduation under the new system, dividing it by the number of credits required under the old system, then multiplying that result by the number of credits earned in the old system to give the student an equivalent number to be used in determining standing. For students changing from a traditional to a block system, or vice versa, it can also be done by taking the number of credits possible per year under the new system, dividing it by the number of credits possible per year under the old system, then multiplying that result by the number of credits earned in the old system to give the student an equivalent

number to be used in determining standing.

For students who have been in multiple school systems with multiple credit systems, the process can be done by taking the academic record of each school year, dividing the number of credits earned at the school of that particular year, by the number of credits possible to have been earned that particular year at that school, and then taking that fractional value times the number of credits possible at the new school. Doing this calculation for each year and then adding together the results yields an "apples to apples" comparison in terms of credits needed by a student to be on schedule for graduation.

The policy or conversion must be approved by the School based Decision Making organization at the school and must be in place for all students and not restricted to student-athletes.

Case BL-5-4- Can summer school or correspondence courses satisfy the academic requirements of Bylaw 5, Section 1?

Yes, due to the fact that the verification date under Bylaw 5, Section 1 is the first day of school, summer school and/or accredited correspondence courses may be used to make up a failure or deficiency in the academic work of the preceding year. The course(s) must be completed and a grade received prior to the first day of school for the student body.

In addition, schools should be mindful of recent changes in the core-content requirements for the NCAA Clearinghouse as certain correspondence courses previously acceptable for credit may not be acceptable within the core curriculum required for certification. Though this does not at this time impact high school eligibility, it creates the scenario where a credit may apply to high school graduation, but not be applicable to college admission or qualification.

Case BL-5-5- If a student is ineligible at the beginning of the school year according to Bylaw 5, Section 1, can this student become eligible during the school year?

No. These provisions state that in order to be eligible during that school year, a student must be eligible on the first day of school for the student body. A student-athlete who is ineligible due to failing to maintain normal progress as defined in Section 1 and remains ineligible an entire year may have eligibility reinstated for the following and subsequent years providing he/she meets all provisions for reinstatement in Bylaw 5.

Case BL-5-6- May a school district or member school adopt an academic standard that is different from the KHSAA Minimum Academic Requirement?

Yes. The school or school district cannot establish a standard that is lower than the KHSAA minimal standard, but a school or school district may set a higher requirement. The KHSAA requirement for participation is that a student must be at proper grade level, and on schedule to graduate in order to be eligible for interscholastic athletics and make continual progress during the school year.

Schools are strongly encouraged to be sure that the normal promotional requirement for advancement to the following grade concurs with eligibility requirements for that grade. This will help ensure that students promoted to the next grade are in fact eligible in that particular grade and that the locally adopted standard does not fall below the requirements of Bylaw 5.

For those requirements which are a higher requirement than the KHSAA minimum standard, the KHSAA will not be involved in enforcement of those regulations.

Case BL-5-7- Is it possible for a student to be eligible according to Bylaw 5 during the senior year and yet not graduate?

Yes, depending upon that particular student's class load and progress, he/she could be eligible by Sec. 1 of this bylaw, complete the required number of courses each year including the final year, and still not graduate, and yet remain eligible throughout the year. This bylaw represents a minimum standard, and as such, schools are empowered to make a tougher regulation that could prevent such an occurrence.

Case BL-5-8- Are subjects or credit hours involved in the

Scholarship Rule (Minimum Academic Requirement)?

Credit hours (commonly referred to as Carnegie units) as applicable to graduation are the standard of measurement to be used for determining eligibility. To be eligible, a student must be passing currently in the required number of full-credit subject hours applicable to graduation and must be at his/her proper grade level according to Bylaw 5. However, their equivalent in units of credit accepted for graduation may be substituted.

Case BL-5-9 – How is academic eligibility determined for students who were not passing at the last grade check of the previous year if a school year has not started?

Until school has begun and a school has checked grades on the first weekly grade check opportunity, any student who was not passing four hours of instruction as of the last valid weekly grade check is not eligible in accordance with the continual progress requirement. A student may restore eligibility if during the interim prior to the next weekly grade check, grades recorded to the permanent record are officially posted and the proper number of credits have been earned to place that student at the proper grade level. This posting to the permanent record may also indicate that the student did in fact pass in four (4) hours of instruction as required. Schools are cautioned to remember that KHSAA Bylaw 9 states that any student not eligible to play in the team's next scrimmage or contest is not eligible to practice with the squad.

Case BL-5-10 – How is weekly eligibility determined for students who were not passing at the last grade check prior to breaks during the school year?

Until school has resumed and a school has checked grades on the first weekly grade check opportunity, any student who was not passing four hours of instruction as of the last valid grade check is not academically eligible. That student however, may be eligible if during the interim prior to the next weekly grade check, grades recorded to the permanent record are officially posted to indicate that the student did in fact pass in four (4) hours of instruction as required. Schools are cautioned to remember that KHSAA Bylaw 9 states that any student not eligible to play in the team's next scrimmage or contest is not eligible to practice with the squad.

Case BL-5-11 – When do schools perform the weekly grade check to determine the continual progress provisions of Bylaw 5?

Each year, when a school applies for membership, school representatives are to designate the one specific day of each week that grades will be checked, and eligibility will then be determined for the subsequent week (Monday through Sunday period).

Case BL-5-12 – How is academic eligibility determined during the summer after July 15 and prior to the start of school?

The academic record of each student desiring to participate in practice and/or competition in contests or scrimmages after July 15 and prior to the start of classes in the fall must be checked to ensure that the student is on schedule to graduate per Bylaw 5, Section 1. If the student's grades and credits in any offering are not a part of the permanent record, those grades or credits may not be used to determine eligibility. In accordance with Bylaw 9, a student who is not eligible to participate in contests or scrimmages is not eligible to practice.