

## 9.4 ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS

9.4.1 2.0 GPA Required for Academic Eligibility. A middle/junior high student must have 2.0 GPA, or the equivalent of a 2.0 GPA based on a 4.0 scale, at the conclusion of each semester. A high school student must have a cumulative 2.0 grade point average on a 4.0 unweighted scale, or its equivalent, at the conclusion of each semester to be academically eligible during the next semester. (s.1006.15(3)(a)1, Florida Statutes)

9.4.1.1 Courses to be Used in Calculating GPA. The grades from all courses required for graduation that a student takes, including those taken by the student before he/she begins high school, must be included in the calculation of the student's cumulative GPA at the conclusion of each semester. For public school students, this includes the courses listed in s.1003.43(1), Florida Statutes.

9.4.1.2 Academic Eligibility/Ineligibility is for a Semester. A student who is academically eligible at the beginning of a semester will continue to be academically eligible for that entire semester. Likewise, a student who is academically ineligible at the beginning of a semester will continue to be academically ineligible for that entire semester, except as provided in Bylaw 9.4.5.1.2. The student's academic eligibility for each successive semester will depend upon his/her cumulative GPA at the conclusion of the previous semester.

9.4.1.3 Attendance During Previous Two Consecutive Semesters Required. A student cannot be academically eligible if he/she has not attended school and received grades for all courses taken during the previous two consecutive semesters.

9.4.1.4 Exception – First Semester of High School Attendance – Ninth Grade. A first-year high school student, entering the ninth grade for the first time, is academically eligible during his/her first semester of high school attendance. The student, however, must have the cumulative 2.0 GPA at the conclusion of his/her first semester of high school attendance to be academically eligible to participate during his/her next semester of attendance.

9.4.1.5 Exception – Using Semester GPA for Ninth and Tenth Grade. A student who is academically ineligible during the second semester of ninth grade or during the first semester of tenth grade and does not regain a cumulative 2.0 GPA at the conclusion of the semester of ineligibility may be granted academic eligibility for the next semester if: (s.1006.15(3)(a)2, Florida Statutes)

- (a) The student signs an academic performance contract with his/her school upon discovery of the semester of ineligibility; and
- (b) The student sits out the semester of ineligibility; and
- (c) The student attends summer school, or its graded equivalent, as necessary; and
- (d) The student earns a 2.0 GPA on a 4.0 unweighted scale in all courses taken during the semester of ineligibility.

9.4.1.6 No Exceptions During the 11th and 12th Grade. Once a student has completed 10th grade, he/she must have the cumulative 2.0 GPA as required by Bylaw 9.3.1 for the remainder of his/her high school career. (s. 1006.15(3)(a)3, Florida Statutes)

9.4.1.7 Students in Dual Enrollment or Early Admission Programs. Students who participate in dual enrollment programs or early admission programs must have the cumulative 2.0 GPA as required in Bylaw 9.4.1 to be academically eligible.

9.4.1.8 Student Not Eligible for One Full Semester if Transcript Cannot be Obtained. A student whose former school cannot or will not provide an official sealed transcript will not be eligible in the new school until he/she has been in attendance for one full semester and has established a cumulative GPA. The school must submit a written report to the FHSAA Office that includes the student's name, date of first attendance in the school, and the beginning and ending dates of the previous semester.

9.4.2 Mandatory Grading Scale to be used in Calculating GPA. All member schools must use the following alphabetical grading scale as mandated in s.1003.437, Florida Statutes, when calculating the grade point averages of high school students to determine their academic eligibility:

- Grade "A" is 90 to 100 percent and has a GPA value of 4;
- Grade "B" is 80 to 89 percent and has a GPA value of 3;
- Grade "C" is 70 to 79 percent and has a GPA value of 2;
- Grade "D" is 60 to 69 percent and has a GPA value of 1; and
- Grade "F" is 59 percent or less and has a GPA value of 0.

9.4.2.1 Incomplete Grade is a Failure. An incomplete grade must be counted as a failure (Grade "F") when calculating a student's cumulative GPA.

9.4.3 Effect of Summer School or its Graded Equivalent Courses on Cumulative GPA. A student may raise or lower his/her cumulative GPA by attending summer school or its graded equivalent if:

- (a) The summer school or its graded equivalent is regularly scheduled and regularly organized under the direction of a district school board or private school;
- (b) All coursework taken by the student is completed before the first day of classes in the subsequent semester; and
- (c) All courses taken by the student, in which he/she receives a grade, whether during the regular academic year or summer school, or its graded equivalent, must be used to calculate the student's cumulative GPA.

9.4.3.1 "Forgiveness." If a student repeats a course, regardless of whether he/she passed or failed the course on the first attempt in which the student earned a "D" or "F," or the equivalent of a grade of "D" or "F," the grade may be replaced with a grade of "C" or higher, or the equivalent of a grade of "C" or higher, provided for required courses the course is the same or comparable course, or with a grade of "C"

or higher, or the equivalent of a grade of “C” or higher for an elective course and that grade will be used to calculate the student’s cumulative GPA. (s.1003.428(4)(d), note, Florida Statutes)

9.4.3.1.1 Grade GPA Calculation. For the purposes of GPA calculation, each subsequent unsuccessful attempt on a course taken for forgiveness must be computed in the calculations. One successful attempt will over write the original grade and all previous unsuccessful attempts.

9.4.3.2 Course Taught by Private Tutor Cannot be Used to Raise GPA. A school cannot accept a grade received by a student in a class conducted by a private certified tutor to raise his/her cumulative GPA for academic eligibility purposes.

9.4.4 Determination of Academic Eligibility at Conclusion of Each Semester. A school must calculate the cumulative GPA of a student at the conclusion of each semester to determine the student’s academic eligibility for the next semester. Only those grades that are first reported by the student’s teachers at the conclusion of the semester can be used to calculate the student’s cumulative GPA.

9.4.4.1 Definition of “First Reported.” “First reported” means the grades that are originally submitted by the student’s teachers at the conclusion of the semester. Changes to grades that are first reported by a student’s teachers may only be made according to the published policies of the school.

9.4.5 Course Work must be Completed by First Day of Next Semester. A student must complete all work required to earn credit in a course taken during a semester by the first day of the next semester. A grade of “incomplete” must be considered a failing grade when calculating a student’s cumulative GPA.

9.4.5.1 Exceptions.

9.4.5.1.1 Special Course Work That Cannot be Completed by First Day of Next Semester. An exception to Bylaw 9.4.5 is made for students taking courses such as agriculture, which have special projects that cannot be completed until late summer.

9.4.5.1.2 Work Not Completed Due to Illness or Excused Absence. A student who is academically ineligible because of a failure to complete his/her course work by the first day of the next semester due to an extended illness, supported by a physician’s report, or other excused absence may have his/her academic eligibility restored once the course work is completed and the student receives a passing grade that raises his/her cumulative GPA to 2.0 or above. A school must notify the FHSAA Office in writing whenever this occurs.

9.4.6 Change in Eligibility Status. If a student’s academic eligibility changes at the end of a semester, the student will become eligible or ineligible on the sixth school day of the next semester as published on the school’s official calendar for that school year. Even if the last day of the semester coincides with the last day of school for the winter holidays, the student will not become eligible or ineligible until the sixth school day of the next semester that follows the winter holidays as published on the school’s official calendar for that school year.

9.4.7 Student Must be an Undergraduate. A student must not have completed the terminal grade of high school in the secondary education system of the U.S. or any other country.