

Rule 18 - Scholarship

18-1 Minimum Course Enrollment and Grades for Participation

To be eligible scholastically, students must have received passing grades and earned credit at the end of their last Grading Period in School in at least Seventy percent (70%) of the maximum number of full credit subjects (or the equivalent) that a student can take and must be currently Enrolled in at least Seventy percent (70%) of the maximum number of full credit subjects (or the equivalent) that a student can take.

- a. For purposes of this rule, a student must have been Enrolled in a minimum of Four (4) full credit courses (or the equivalent) during the last Grading Period, and must be Enrolled in a minimum of Four (4) full credit subjects (or the equivalent) during the current Grading Period.
- b. If grades reported at an Eligibility Certification Date include both Grading Period grades and semester grades, then semester grades take precedence for eligibility purposes.
- c. A student may use up to Two (2) semesters of the state-required physical education course for eligibility purposes, with each semester's course counting as One (1) full credit.
- d. Physical education credit earned by participation on an athletic team, may not count toward academic eligibility.
- e. When the block Four scheduling program is used, students must be currently Enrolled in and passing Three (3) courses.
- f. Class periods must meet Indiana Department of Education standards for awarding credit and minutes in class. For purposes of this rule, One (1) full credit subject requires a minimum total of Two Hundred Fifty (250) minutes of instruction per week for One (1) semester.
- g. In the event a School establishes minimum academic requirements which are greater than the IHSAA academic requirements, the IHSAA will consider those higher academic requirements to constitute the IHSAA academic requirements at such School, and will require that a student at that School meet those greater academic requirements before that student is eligible scholastically under this rule.

Maximum Classes	4	5	6	7	8
Must Pass	3	4	5	5	6

18-1.1 Amount of Credit

The amount of credit given for any subject shall be as authorized by the Department of Education.

NOTE: With such approval, Advanced Physical Education may earn a maximum of One (1) credit, per semester.

18-1.2 Multi-Credit Subjects

Subjects for which Two (2) or more credits per semester are earned toward graduation shall be considered as an equivalent number of required subjects.

18-1.3 Vocational and Special Education School Credits

Students attending state approved vocational or special education schools may transfer such grades and credits earned to their home School for the purpose of establishing eligibility.

18-1.4 Partial Credit Subjects

A combination of 2, 3, or 4 partial-credit subject grades may be substituted for 1 or 2 full-credit subject deficiencies.

18-1.5 Transfer Students

Transfer students must meet the requirements of this rule. However, if a transfer student is coming from a school with a different academic schedule that cannot be accommodated in his/her new School, and the transfer student is certified to be academically eligible by the school from which he/she is transferring, said transfer student shall have full academic eligibility in their new School until the transfer student can Enroll, complete and receive credit in the maximum number of full credit subjects that a student can take at the new School. However, during this interim period the transfer student must receive passing grades at the new School

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in at least Seventy percent (70%) of the classes in which the student is Enrolled (semester grades take precedence) and meet all other eligibility rules.

18-1.6 Semester Ineligibility

Students who are ineligible scholastically at the end of a Grading Period or semester, are ineligible for the following Grading Period.

18-2 Certification Dates

Each School will establish consistent Grading Periods within the school year. The principal shall set the Eligibility Certification Dates annually on the membership page/form. Each Eligibility Certification Date must occur no later than noon of the tenth school day following the end of each Grading Period. The principal shall certify the grades of each student on the Eligibility Certification Date.

18-3 Night School

When students from a member School attend any night school approved by the Department of Education and such students desire to count the credits earned toward IHSAA scholastic eligibility requirements, they must obtain written approval from their high School principals that each specific course credit/s earned will be accepted and counted toward graduation. When establishing current scholastic eligibility requirements, they must be passing Seventy percent (70%) of the maximum of full credit subjects or the equivalent taken concurrently in day and/or night school.

18-4 Make-up for Scholastic Deficiency

Scholastic deficiencies caused by the inability of a student to pass Seventy percent (70%) (See rule 18-1) or the equivalent in the previous Grading Period (semester grades take precedence) may be made up in night school, summer school or correspondence school and counted toward eligibility provided:

- a. it be done in an accredited school or according to procedures approved by the Department of Education;
- b. all work be done and the necessary credits be made a matter of final record in principal's office prior to the opening date of the Grading Period in which eligibility is desired. This does not apply to incompletes;
- c. all work and credits be Bona Fide and certified as such by the high School principal.

18-5 Incompletes

An incomplete in a course at the end of a Grading Period or semester counts as a failure until deficiency has been removed; an incomplete in a course on the Eligibility Certification Date counts as a failure and, for scholastic eligibility purposes, cannot later be made up or removed. A School may request a hardship waiver of this rule, regarding a make-up of an incomplete after the Eligibility Certification Date for an extreme situation outside the control of the student and the student's parent(s).

18-6 Withdrawals

Students who withdraw within the first Fifteen (15) school days of a semester shall not be considered ineligible as to scholarship at the beginning of their next semester of Enrollment, provided they were eligible when they withdrew.

18-7 Alternative Courses

High school students who are Enrolled in a member high School may, with prior written approval of their high School principal, obtain credits from alternative courses which may count toward IHSAA scholastic eligibility requirements:

- a. College Courses: A student may attend an accredited institution which grants credits which count toward a baccalaureate degree from that institution, for credit that is acceptable for high School graduation and for college credit, provided:
 - (1.) the student is Enrolled in credit courses at their home School at least Fifty percent (50%) of the normal school day,
 - (2.) the college course is approved by the Department of Education,
 - (3.) the local Board of School Trustees counts the college course credit toward graduation,
 - (4.) the college class is taken concurrently with the student's School classes;
 - (5.) total class time of a college credit course is equivalent to the student's regular

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courses and in determining credits, Three (3) semester hours or the equivalent in a college course shall be counted as equivalent of One (1) high school credit.

- b. Unavailable Courses: A student may attend class at another accredited school for credit in course offerings which cannot be obtained at the student's School so long as the student is Enrolled in and attending credit courses at their home School during at least Fifty percent (50%) of the normal school day, and the total time in the class is equivalent to a regular course at the student's home School.
- c. College During Vacation Periods: During a vacation period, high school students with remaining athletic eligibility may Enroll in or attend a program in an accredited institution of higher learning that may give them college credit provided they have prior written approval of their high School principal.
- d. Virtual Course: A student may earn course credits by attending a non-traditional Virtual Course provided:
 - (1.) written request for approval of the Virtual Course is made to the IHSAA, including a detailed description, and is approved by the Commissioner;
 - (2.) the Virtual Course is approved by the Department of Education;
 - (3.) the local School Board of Trustees counts the credits earned in a Virtual Course towards graduation;
 - (4.) Virtual Course classes are taken concurrently with a student's regular classes;
 - (5.) total class time of a Virtual Course is equivalent to the student's regular course, and
 - (6.) the total number of Virtual Courses enrolled in and attended by a student during a Grading Period may not exceed Thirty percent (30%) of a student's total course load.
- e. Innovative Course. Credit for an Innovative Course may count toward IHSAA scholastic eligibility requirements provided:
 - (1.) the student and student's School submit to the Commissioner a written request for approval of the Innovative Course, including a detailed course description, and the application is approved by the Commissioner;
 - (2.) the Innovative Course is approved by the Department of Education;
 - (3.) the local Board of School Trustees counts the Innovative Course credits toward graduation;
 - (4.) the Innovative Course classes are taken concurrently with the student's regular School classes, and
 - (5.) the Innovative Course class time is equivalent to the student's regular School class time.

18-8 Special Education

A student who (a) is receiving special education and related services pursuant to an individual education program, (b) is not earning credits toward a diploma, (c) is working toward a certificate of completion, certificate of attendance, or the equivalent, and (d) the student's individual education plan (IEP) includes satisfaction of the IHSAA academic standards contained in rule 18-1, may meet such academic requirements, provided the student is making satisfactory progress toward the goals, objectives and benchmarks contained in the student's progress reports and case conference committee, and certified by the building principal.

Q & A

Academic Eligibility - Generally

- Q. 18-1 When is a student academically eligible to participate in interscholastic athletics at a member School under the IHSAA rules?
- A. In general, a student is eligible academically if (i) the student is currently enrolled in at least Seventy percent (70%) of the maximum number of full credit subjects available, or the equivalent., and (ii) the student received a passing grade in Seventy percent (70%) of the maximum number of full credit high school subjects available, or the equivalent, in the previous Grading Period (rule 18-1)

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- Q. 18-2 If a student fails to pass Seventy percent (70%) of the maximum number of full credit high school subjects or the equivalent during the last Grading Period of a semester but earns credits in Seventy percent (70%) of the maximum number of full credit high school subjects for the semester, will the student be eligible at the beginning of the first Grading Period of the next semester?
- A. Yes, the semester grades take precedence over grades received during the final Grading Period of the semester. (rule 18-1)
- Q. 18-3 If a student passes Seventy percent (70%) of the maximum number of full credit high school subjects or the equivalent during the last Grading Period of a semester but failed to earn and be awarded credits in Seventy percent (70%) of the maximum number of full credit high school subjects for the semester, will the student be eligible at all for the next Grading Period?
- A. No, the semester grades take precedence over grades received during the final Grading Period of the semester. (rule 18-1)
- Q. 18-4 If a student is academically ineligible at the end of a Grading Period or semester, is the student academically ineligible for the entire next Grading Period?
- A. Yes, an academically ineligible student at the end of any Grading Period is academically ineligible for the entire next Grading Period. (rule 18-1.6)
- Q. 18-5 If a student is academically ineligible at the end of a Grading Period or a semester, when can the player become academically eligible?
- A. If, following a period of academic ineligibility a student successfully meets all academic requirements during a succeeding Grading Period, the student will be eligible to play on the date the principal certifies grades for the succeeding Grading Period. Here the student would be eligible on the certification date for the succeeding Grading Period. (rule 18-2)
- Q. 18-6 Is a student who had been academically ineligible during a Grading Period, but who meets the scholarship requirements the next Grading Period, eligible to play the night of the last day of the next Grading Period?
- A. It depends on the certification date of the student's School. A student becomes academically ineligible on the certification date and also academically eligible on the certification date. Here, if the certification date is the last date of the Grading Period, then the student would be academically eligible to play sports that day. If the certification date was the following Tuesday, then the player would be eligible the following Tuesday. (rule 18-2)
- Q. 18-7 Is a student who was expelled from school for an entire semester, academically eligible for the following semester?
- A. Yes, provided the student had passed Seventy percent (70%) of the maximum number of full credit high school subjects or the equivalent during the last Grading Period of Enrollment. Note, all rules of the IHSAA are binding on a student, both before and during a period of expulsion or Suspension, such as the conduct rule, the scholarship rule and the enrollment rule. (rule 18-1)
- Q. 18-8 Is a student who was expelled from school during the middle of a semester, academically eligible for the first Grading Period following the period of expulsion?
- A. No, the student would fail to meet the requirements of passing Seventy percent (70%) of the maximum number of full credit high school subjects or the equivalent during the student's last Grading Period. (rule 18-1)
- Q. 18-9 Is a student who was passing Seventy percent (70%) of the maximum number of full credit high school subjects or the equivalent and then dropped out of school for the remainder of the Grading Period, and did not receive any grades for the Grading Period, considered eligible under the scholarship rule at the beginning of the following Grading Period?
- A. No, the student would fail to meet the requirements of passing Seventy percent (70%) of the maximum number of full credit high school subjects or the equivalent the student's last Grading Period of enrollment. (rule 18-1)

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- Q. 18-10 Is a student who has been out of high school for a semester or more, and who has played on a Non-School Team during that time, eligible when entering school at the beginning of a semester?
- A. This is not an academic question since non-attendance at school alone or playing on a Non-School Team does not impact a student's academic eligibility. Rather, academic eligibility turns upon the student's academic success or lack of success the last Grading Period of attendance. (rule 18-1)

Make-Up Work and Repeated Courses

- Q. 18-11 Can a student repeat a course and have the course count toward academic eligibility?
- A. Yes, if approved by the principal and a passing grade is earned and placed on the student's official transcript.
- Q. 18-12 Can a student, who has an incomplete at the end of a Grading Period in One (1) of the five (5) courses in which the student was enrolled, make up the work in the course, obtain a passing grade for the course, and be academically eligible during the upcoming Grading Period?
- A. Yes, but it depends on when the class work is made up and when the grade is changed from an 'I' to a passing grade. Incompletes can be made up and an incomplete can be changed to a passing grade, but in order for that passing grade to count for eligibility purposes, the passing grade must have been entered on the student's records on or before the Eligibility Certification Date, rule 18-5. A School can request a hardship waiver to permit the student to make-up the incomplete after the Eligibility Certification Date. To obtain a waiver the student would have to show that the reason the course could not be timely completed was the result of an extreme situation outside the control of the student and the student's parent(s), such as a medical emergency. Even if a waiver is granted, a student will remain academically ineligible until the course is completed and the grade is changed from an 'I' to a passing grade.
- Q. 18-13 If a student fails to pass Seventy percent (70%) of the maximum number of full credit subjects available, or the equivalent, during the last semester of the school year, may the student's credits achieved in summer school count toward academic eligibility?
- A. Yes, summer school course grades and credits can be combined with the previous spring semester course grades and credits in order to meet the Seventy percent (70%) rule for the spring semester. In order for the summer school course grades and credits to be used, all summer school courses must be completed before the first day of school of the next fall semester. A student who needs summer school grades and credits to be academically eligible will remain ineligible until the summer school grades and credits are received by the student's School of Enrollment and the principal or the principal's designee can confirm that the student is academically eligible for fall sports. (rules 18-4, 18-5).
- Q. 18-14 Can a student use an on-line or correspondence course to count as a full credit subject for purposes of academic eligibility?
- A. Yes, provided the on-line or correspondence course is taken or attended concurrently with the Grading Period for which the course is to be counted as a full credit subject, and provided the course complies with the requirements of either the night-school rule (rule 18-3), the innovative course rule (rule 12-4), the college-credit rule (rule 18-8(a)) or the unavailable-course rule (rule 18-7(b)).
- Q. 18-15 May a student make up an academic deficiency during a Grading Period by demonstrating proficiency in a course or subject, and obtain credit(s) under Ind. Code 20-36-5-1 or a similar law?
- A. No, academic deficiencies can be made up under rule 18-5 only through the enrollment in a course of study offered at a night, summer, or correspondence

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school, by successfully such a course through course work, and by receiving course credit(s). Testing out of a course may not be used to make up for an academic deficiency.

Vocational Schools

- Q. 18-16 A student attends a vocational school outside the student's School of Enrollment, for Three (3) hours each day. Where is the student eligible?
- A. The student is eligible at the student's School of Enrollment. (rule 18-7(b))
- Q. 18-17 A student at a member School attends a college (e.g. Ivy Tech) to take vocational courses. Is the student academically eligible?
- A. A student may take vocational courses "off-campus" and still be academically eligible, provided the student obtains prior approval from the principal of the School of Enrollment, the courses are not offered at the School of Enrollment and the student attends the School of Enrollment at least Fifty percent (50%) of the school day. (rule 17-8 (b)). Alternatively, the student may be academically eligible, even if the courses are available at the School of Enrollment, provided the student obtains prior approval from the principal of the School of Enrollment, the courses provide credit for both high school and college and the student attends the School of Enrollment at least Fifty percent (50%) of the school day. (rule 18-7(a)).

Transfer Students

- Q. 18-18 Is a transfer student, who was academically eligible at a prior school, academically eligible at the new School when the student's academic schedule at the previous School (block 4) cannot be accommodated at the new School (traditional six-period day).
- A. The student may have full academic eligibility until the student can enroll, complete and receive credit in the maximum number of full credit subjects that the student can take at the new School. (rule 18-1.5)
- Q. 18-19 Is a transfer student who was academically ineligible at the transfer student's prior school eligible at the transfer student's new School?
- A. No. Under rule 3-8, any ineligibility rulings under the rules of a prior school, such as an academic ineligibility ruling, carry over to the new School, even if the transfer student would have been academically eligible under the rules of the new School. An academically ineligible transfer student will remain academically ineligible at the new School until the transfer student meets the academic requirements at the new School, including the IHSAA academic requirement of having received passing grades and earned credit at the end of the transfers student's last Grading Period at the new School in at least Seventy percent (70%) of the maximum number of full credit subjects (or the equivalent) that the transfer student could take at the new School.

Home School Students

- Q. 18-20 May a student who is "Home Schooled" and being taught by his/her parents be eligible for athletics?
- A. Yes, under the non-accredited student rule, a student who attends a non-public, non-accredited school, which includes all home education schools, may be eligible to participate in the athletic program at the Indiana Public School serving the student's residence, provided the student meets the rule's minimum requirements and conditions. Otherwise, a student is eligible to participate in an athletic program involving IHSAA recognized sports only at the member School in which the student is Enrolled and attends, and is passing Seventy percent (70%) of the maximum number of courses offered at that member School. (rules 12-1, 12-5, 18-1)

Students Eligible to Graduate

- Q. 18-21 Are students who have made sufficient credits to graduate in less than 8 semesters, eligible thereafter?
- A. Yes, provided they do not actually graduate and remain Enrolled and carry an

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adequate workload (Seventy percent (70%) of the available full credit subjects) during the Grading Period of participation.. (rules 13-2, 18-1)

Q. 18-22 When does the eligibility of a student-athlete end if the student graduates at the end of the first semester or the second Trimester?

A. The student-athlete would become ineligible to participate in athletics on the first day of the next Grading Period.

Entry of Academically Ineligible Students in Tournament

Q. 18-23 May a student's name be included on an IHSAA touney entry list while the student is scholastically ineligible?

A. Yes, however, the student must be eligible at the time of participation.

Summer School

Q. 18-24 Does a summer school credit earned by a student at a school other than the School of Enrollment jeopardize the academic eligibility of that student?

A. No. And if the summer school credit is accepted by the Department of Education and the principal of the School of Enrollment recognizes the summer school work for credit, the summer school credit may be used to satisfy the academic requirements of the scholarship rule. In fact, the IHSAA recommends summer school classes, which are approved by the principal of the School of Enrollment, for students who need credits. (rule 18-5)

Q. 18-25 May summer school credits be counted as make-up for a future deficiency?

A. No, summer school credits can be applied only to make up for academic deficiencies the previous spring Grading Period. (rule 18-4)

Physical Education Grades

Q. 18-26 May a state-required physical education course be count as a full credit subject under the Scholarship rule?

A. Yes, regardless of whether the course is for a full credit or for half credit, each course of the Two (2) semesters, state required physical education course may be counted as a full credit subject for eligibility purposes. (rule 18-1)

Conditional and Incomplete Grades

Q. 18-27 Is a "conditional" or an "incomplete" considered a "pass" by the IHSAA when determining academic eligibility?

A. No, an incomplete at the end of a Grading Period or semester counts as a failure until deficiency has been removed and the course will count for eligibility purposes only if the conditional or incomplete is removed prior to the Eligibility Certification, or if the students petitions to the IHSAA for a waiver of the rule. (rule 18-5)

RULE 19 – ELIGIBILITY AND TRANSFER

(Also see rule 12 – Enrollment and Attendance)

Philosophy

The following is a brief resume of the points of philosophy included in the transfer rule of this Association.

- a. Participation in interschool athletics is a privilege provided for students who meet the democratically-established standards of qualification as set forth by this Association.
- b. The privilege of participation in interschool athletics should fundamentally be available to Bona Fide students in school districts where their parents or legally-established guardians reside.
- c. Standards governing residence and transfer are a necessary prerequisite to participation in interschool athletics because:
 - (1.) they protect the opportunities of Bona Fide students to participate;
 - (2.) they provide a fundamentally fair and equitable framework in which interschool athletic competition, in an educational setting, can take place;
 - (3.) they provide uniform standards for all schools to follow in maintaining athletic competition;