



FALL WORKSHOPS - ELIGIBILITY BREAKOUT

2026-2027



WASHINGTON INTERSCHOLASTIC ACTIVITIES ASSOCIATION

WIAA ELIGIBILITY TEAM

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NOT ON THE ELIGIBILITY TEAM



ELIGIBILITY GOALS

- Continued progress providing transparency in the eligibility process
- Better history of student-athlete participation
- Continued dialogue between schools regarding the process
- Continue to improve FinalForms platform to make the paperwork easier for families and Athletic Directors
- Continue to improve FinalForms platform to make the process easier for eligibility chairs and committees
- Full transfer numbers entered by every member school

WINDOW OF TRANSFER RULE REMINDERS

- The one-time window of transfer rule allows for a transfer to a new school between the final day of the school year at the previous school and the first day of fall sports according to the WIAA calendar (first day of football).
- The student must sit out the first 40% of allowable varsity contests at the new school for any sport played in the previous calendar year - still eligible for sub-varsity.
- The student cannot access the window if they have moved residences, whether full family unit, or just moving in with grandma.
- The student may appeal the 40% sitout, but if they are denied, they are sub-varsity for one calendar year, they cannot re-access the sitout
- Incoming 9th graders are not transfers, they are establishing their eligibility. If they transfer after starting a fall sport or after the first day of school, they are now considered a transfer

TRANSFER RULE REMINDERS

- All eligibility rules must be met to be deemed eligible for varsity competition.
- Students may not transfer for athletic purpose and be deemed eligible under the window of transfer rule, or any other transfer rule, even if there is a hardship
- Students cannot become immediately eligible at the new school if they were ineligible at the previous school
- Bona-fide change of residence is NOT a one-time transfer and is not subject to a sitout period
- ALL TRANSFERS GO INTO THE FINALFORMS TRANSFER TRACKER
 - Not just your kids going through eligibility

TRANSFER RULE REMINDERS - McKINNEY VENTO

- McKinney Vento is aimed to support homeless student and keep them in consistent educational offerings
 - It is not a pathway to recruit kids to avoid eligibility, this is an abuse of funds
- AD's should work with their MKV liaisons when determining eligibility status of students
- Because a student receives MKV services, does not guarantee immediate eligibility
- If there are concerns and information cannot be verified through the liaison, a hearing may be needed

ALTERNATIVE LEARNING EXPERIENCES

- Homeschool students only compete where they have a letter of intent to homeschool
- Alternative school students may participate at their resident public school, or school of record
- Running Start students are only eligible at their resident public school

ELIGIBILITY AMENDMENTS

- Private school students transferring to another private school, no longer must prove two hardships to be eligible at their new school, they must prove one
- Running Start students are now responsible for their college and high school grades if applicable at the end of each college term (example to follow)
- Students in a winter sport must pass the most recent quarter/trimester to be eligible for competition at the beginning of the season

RUNNING START CONTRACT

- Is student taking enough credits?
- How do we check grades?
 - Have plan for RS students to show all grades
- What happens if student fails Hist 101 at the end of term 1?
- What happens if student is failing PE at the end of college term 1?
- Suspension is 5-weeks



Students who access the Running Start Program at the community colleges find themselves on a different academic calendar from their high school for academic eligibility. There could be times during the high school year that Running Start students are not in school or taking academic courses. To ensure that students remain athletically eligible at their high school, they enter into the following contract with their school and commit to taking and completing the approved academic program at the community college and/or in conjunction with a blended schedule at their high school.

Student's Name: John Doe

Running Start School/Location: Highline High School Registered: Tyee

Expected Graduation Year: 2028 Current Grade: 11 Age: 16

Academic Plan: _____ Credit Hour Requirement (per semester): 3.0

Academic Expectations Agreement: By signing this form, the student agrees to attend all classes and to make no changes to his/her approved academic schedule without first consulting with his/her high school on the potential eligibility ramifications of such changes.

Running Start Term 1	Running Start Term 2	Running Start Term 3
1.0 - Lit 101	1	1.0 - Hist 201
1.0 - Hist 101	2	1.0 - Chem 101
3	3	1.0 - Econ 101
4	4	4
2.0 Credit Hours:	0	3.0 Credit Hours:

HS Fall Semester	HS Fall/Spring Semester	HS Spring Semester
.5 - PE	.5 - Math	.5 - Math
.5 - Art	2	2
3	3	3
4	4	4
1.0 Credit Hours:	.5	3.5 Credit Hours:

3.0 Combined Credit Hours 1:	.5 Combined Credit Hours 2:	3.5 Combined Credit Hours 3:
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ELIGIBILITY & APPEAL REMINDERS

- Make sure all of the information on the assessment is complete
 - Includes parent/guardian signature
 - Including resolving any disputes from the previous school
 - Previous schools need to be forthcoming if there is information as to why the student transferred, and provide details and proof as to why
- Make sure the families have documentation for their moves and for their hardships
- If they are eligible for a sport, DO NOT send them for a hearing prior to the sport season in which they are ineligible (ie. clear for football but not baseball)
- Every transfer goes into the Tracker

GRADE REPETITION

- We are not the NCAA - We do not have “Reclassification” unless the student is moving ahead in grade.
- Students who are repeating 7th and 8th grade due to size, maturity, skill level, etc will have eligibility issues their senior year.
 - This needs to be shared with families in your community, they are jeopardizing their student
- Students that do repeat must have documentation from the principal at that time that shows the retention was due to some type of academic deficiencies
 - They will still go through an eligibility hearing their senior year most likely



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