

BYLAW 5. MINIMUM ACADEMIC REQUIREMENT

Sec. 1) PROPER GRADE LEVEL REQUIREMENT FOR STUDENTS ENROLLED IN GRADES 9 THROUGH 12 IN ALL SCHOOL DISTRICTS

a) First Day of School Year Earned Credit Check

- (1) On the first day of each school year, a student shall have been legally enrolled as a full-time student during the previous grading period, and shall be on schedule to graduate with his or her class on the first day of school based on the number of credits officially recorded on the transcript.
- (2) For the verification of this provision, all course work, including summer distance/online and correspondence work, and final grades shall be completed and posted to the transcript by the first day of the school year for the student body.
- (3) No course work completed after the first day of the school year for the student body shall be used to make this determination.
- (4) Any credit or course used to meet these standards must meet the following criteria:
 - a. Courses that are taught through distance learning, online, credit recovery, etc. shall be comparable in length, content and rigor to courses taught in a traditional classroom setting and shall not be intended as replacement for previously attempted course work;
 - b. Students may not skip lessons or test out of modules. For example, if a student is permitted to test out of portions of a repeated course, is exempted from certain modules, or is allowed to finish the course in an abbreviated time frame, such a course would not be acceptable for use in the reinstatement determination;
 - c. The instructor and the student shall have ongoing access to, and regular interaction with, one another for purposes of teaching, evaluating and providing assistance to the student throughout the duration of the course;
 - d. The student's work (e.g., exams, papers, assignments) shall be made available for evaluation and validation upon request;
 - e. Evaluation of the student's work shall be conducted by the appropriate academic authorities in accordance with the high school's established academic policies;
 - f. The course shall include a defined time period for completion and comparable to the same credit taught within the traditional school day;
 - g. The course must be acceptable for any student and the school's policies for such courses must be followed consistently for both student-athletes and non-athletes with no exceptions made for student-athletes;
 - h. The course must be substantially comparable, qualitatively and quantitatively (e.g., content, textbook, assessments, duration), to the course in the mainstream or regular curriculum;
 - i. The course provider must have the work to be completed online accepted by the NCAA as part of its review of Division I and II athletes seeking to enroll at a college or University; and
 - j. The course credit must be recorded on the student transcript prior to the day before the defined Sec. 2 period for which reinstatement is desired (subsequent trimester, semester or school year dependent upon school defined curriculum).
- (5) The determination for reinstatement of eligibility and first available date of practice available under Sec. 1(b) of this bylaw shall be based on the original published calendar submitted to the Kentucky Department of Education.
- (6) 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 shall have been promoted from grade eight (8) to grade nine (9), and be in compliance with all other bylaws.
- (7) 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 shall have received twenty (20) percent of the requirements of the school/district for graduation

(credits officially posted to the transcript) prior to the first day of the second year following initial enrollment in grade nine (9), and be in compliance with all other bylaws.

(8) 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 shall have received forty-five (45) percent of the requirements of the school/district for graduation (credits officially posted to the transcript) prior to the first day of the third year following initial enrollment in grade nine (9), and be in compliance with all other bylaws.

(9) 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 shall have received seventy (70) percent of the requirements of the school/district for graduation (credits officially posted to the transcript) prior to the first day of the fourth year following initial enrollment in grade nine (9), and be in compliance with all other bylaws.

b) Reinstatement of Students Failing to Meet Normal Progress Requirements on First Day of School

(1) Reinstatement of Students Failing to Meet Normal Progress Requirements and being ineligible for one school year:

- a. The eligibility of a student failing to meet the provisions of Sec. 1(a) of this bylaw may be reinstated in schools operating on a year-long credit recording system. This reinstatement is possible by the student passing twenty-five (25) percent of the requirements of the district for graduation during the year he or she is ineligible.
- b. Such verification will be made by reviewing solely credits officially posted on the transcript.
- c. Courses taken via audit, credit recovery or like program to gain credit for previously deficient class work, or any other less than full-term methods, shall not be used for purpose of this reinstatement.
- d. Any full-term online/distance credit used in this calculation shall meet the criteria of Sec. 1(a)(4) of this bylaw.
- e. Eligibility to compete in scrimmages or contests shall be effective with the first day of the subsequent school year or the first date in which he or she complies with Sec. 1(a) of this bylaw.
- f. He or she, upon reinstatement, shall remain eligible as long as he or she passes twenty-five (25) percent of the requirements of the district for graduation during each subsequent year or becomes compliant with Sec. 1(a) of this bylaw.

(2) Reinstatement of Students Failing to Meet Normal Progress Requirements and being ineligible for one semester:

- a. The eligibility of a student failing to meet the provisions of Sec. 1(a) of this bylaw may be reinstated in schools operating on a two-semester credit recording system. This reinstatement is possible by the student passing fifteen (15) percent of the requirements of the district for graduation during the semester in which he or she is ineligible.
- b. Such verification will be made by reviewing solely credits officially posted on the transcript.
- c. Courses taken via audit, credit recovery or like program to gain credit for previously deficient class work, or any other less than full-term methods, shall not be used for purpose of this reinstatement.
- d. Any full-term online/distance credit used in this calculation shall meet the criteria of Sec. 1(a)(4) of this bylaw.
- e. Eligibility to compete in scrimmages or contests shall be effective with the first day of the subsequent semester (based on the district's official original calendar submitted to the Kentucky Department of Education) following the recording of the credits to the student's permanent record or the first date in which he or she complies with Sec. 1(a) of this bylaw.
- f. He or she, upon reinstatement, shall remain eligible as long as he or she passes fifteen (15) percent of the requirements of the district for graduation during each subsequent

- semester or becomes compliant with Sec. 1(a) of this bylaw.
- (3) Reinstatement of Students Failing to Meet Normal Progress Requirements and being ineligible for one trimester:
- The eligibility of a student failing to meet the provisions of Sec. 1(a) may be reinstated in schools operating on a three-trimester credit recording system. This reinstatement is possible by the student passing ten (10) percent of the requirements of the district for graduation during the trimester in which he or she is ineligible.
 - Such verification will be made by reviewing solely credits officially posted on the transcript.
 - Courses taken via audit, credit recovery or like program to gain credit for previously deficient class work, or any other less than full-term methods, shall not be used for purpose of this reinstatement.
 - Any full-term online/distance credit used in this calculation shall meet the criteria of Sec. 1(a)(4) of this bylaw.
 - Eligibility to compete in scrimmages or contests shall be effective with the first day of the subsequent trimester, (based on the district's official original calendar submitted to the Kentucky Department of Education) following the recording of the credits to the student's permanent record or the first date in which he or she complies with Sec. 1(a) of this bylaw.
 - He or she, upon reinstatement, shall remain eligible as long as he or she passes ten (10) percent of the requirements of the district for graduation during each subsequent trimester or becomes compliant with Sec. 1(a) of this bylaw.

Sec. 2) CONTINUAL PROGRESS DURING THE SCHOOL YEAR

- On a weekly basis, a student shall be making continual progress during the school year 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.
- 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.
- Courses taken via audit, credit recovery or like program to gain credit for previously deficient class work, or any other less than full-term methods, shall not be used for purpose of this reinstatement. Any online/distance credit used in this calculation shall meet the criteria of Sec. 1(a)(4) of this bylaw.
 - Weekly Eligibility Standard for Students Enrolled in Grades 9-12:
 - To be making continual progress, a student shall have passed in four hours of instruction units as defined by Kentucky Board of Education regulations (of the six hours of instruction required) during the previous credit period that closed during the school year (trimester or semester).
 - To be making continual progress the student shall also be passing cumulatively for the current 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.
 - Courses taken via audit, credit recovery or like program to gain credit for previously deficient class work, or any other less than full-term methods, shall not be used for purpose of this reinstatement. Any online/distance credit used in this calculation shall meet the criteria of Sec. 1(a)(4) of this bylaw.
- Weekly Eligibility Standard for Students Enrolled in Grades Below Nine (9) participating for a KHSAA member school:

A pre-secondary school student (grades 7-8) participating in athletics representing a KHSAA member school shall be passing in at least two-thirds of the subjects in which he or she is currently enrolled and be in compliance with all other bylaws in order to be eligible.

Sec. 3) ELIGIBILITY IN DISTRICTS OF INNOVATION

- For a student participating in a school in an approved district of innovation as referenced in KRS 156.108 and KRS 160.107, in lieu of complying with Sections (1) and (2) above, the district shall develop and submit for approval to the Commissioner, a

plan to monitor the weekly progress of students that provides for an accurate assessment of academic progress for the year.

- Such plan shall consider solely the documented record of the student's academic progress and may not include speculative factors for future periods.

Sec. 4) SPECIAL RECITATIONS/ADJUSTMENTS

Special tests or recitations shall not be given for the purpose of making the student eligible.

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

The primary purpose of high schools is to academically prepare students for productive contributions in their future lives as citizens in this country, whether they are bound for college or ready to embark on a career. For that reason, standards must be developed and applied, including:

- Interscholastic athletic activity programs are an extension of the classroom, and academic standards help ensure the balance between participation in the activity and appropriate academic performance;*
- Interscholastic athletic and activity programs assist in the educational development of all participants;*
- Academic standards promote the objective of graduation from the institution and that student participants are truly representing the academic mission of the institution;*
- Overall, academic standards promote educational standards, underscore the educational values of participating in activities, encourage appropriate academic performance and allow the use of interscholastic participation as a motivator for improved classroom performance;*
- 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 shall be in place to ensure that in addition to sports participation, a student shall be on schedule to graduate with his/her class; and*
- As class systems change (block and other alternative schedules), these requirements shall 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.*

Though athletics and activities serve as deterrents for many students to become involved in less-desirable elements of society, a young person shall be a student first and an athlete second.

The combination of Bylaw 5, Sec. 1 and Sec. 2 attempts to ensure that each student-athlete not only makes progress throughout a season, but through each year and through the course of the four years following enrollment in grade nine (9).

Case BL-5-2- Is it permissible for a school district or member school to adopt an academic standard that is different from the KHSAA Minimum Academic Requirement?

Yes. A school or school district may set a higher (more rigid) requirement than the KHSAA minimum requirement. The KHSAA requirement for participation is that a student shall 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. For any requirement which is a higher requirement than the KHSAA minimum standard, the KHSAA will not be involved in enforcement of that requirement. A school cannot establish a standard that is lower than the KHSAA minimum standard.

Schools are strongly encouraged to ensure 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.

Case BL-5-3- How long must a student be enrolled during the previous grading period to be considered enrolled as a full-time student during the previous credit recording period?

Six weeks enrollment in a school shall constitute a semester in the interpretation of this rule.

Case BL-5-4- How is Sec. 1(a) 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 shall 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 shall 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. Any other means of rounding would result in the requirement not being met.

Graduation Requirement (Credits)	First Year (Normally Grade 9)	Second Year (Normally Grade 10)	Third Year (Normally Grade 11)	Fourth Year (Normally Grade 12)
20	Promoted from 8	4.00	9.00	14.00
21	Promoted from 8	4.20	9.45	14.70
22	Promoted from 8	4.40	9.90	15.40
23	Promoted from 8	4.60	10.35	16.10
24	Promoted from 8	4.80	10.80	16.80
25	Promoted from 8	5.00	11.25	17.50
26	Promoted from 8	5.20	11.70	18.20
27	Promoted from 8	5.40	12.15	18.90
28	Promoted from 8	5.60	12.60	19.60
29	Promoted from 8	5.80	13.05	20.30
30	Promoted from 8	6.00	13.50	21.00
31	Promoted from 8	6.20	13.95	21.70
32	Promoted from 8	6.40	14.40	22.40

Case BL-5-5- How is Sec. 1(b) of Bylaw 5 interpreted to determine eligibility of a student desiring to restore eligibility following a period of ineligibility due to Sec. 1(a)?

After the student has been ineligible for a specific period (trimester, semester or year based on the school academic calendar), the student can be reviewed for reinstatement according to Sec. 1(b).

Guidance counselors or other personnel shall use the following chart to determine eligibility based on the local district's requirements for graduation.

Any number of credits required which cannot be matched directly to the credits of the school shall 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. Any other means of rounding would result in the requirement not being met.

Graduation Requirement (Credits)	Required to reinstate after complete year ineligible	Required to reinstate after semester ineligible	Required to reinstate after trimester ineligible
20	5.00	3.00	2.00
21	5.25	3.15	2.10
22	5.50	3.30	2.20
23	5.75	3.45	2.30
24	6.00	3.60	2.40
25	6.25	3.75	2.50
26	6.50	3.90	2.60
27	6.75	4.05	2.70
28	7.00	4.20	2.80
29	7.25	4.35	2.90
30	7.50	4.50	3.00
31	7.75	4.65	3.10
32	8.00	4.80	3.20

Case BL-5-6- Are subjects or credit hours involved in the application of the 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 shall be passing currently in the required number of full-credit subject hours applicable to graduation and shall be at his/her proper grade level according to Bylaw 5. However, their equivalent in units of credit accepted for graduation may be substituted. All credit calculations are based on totals at the time the credit is recorded to the transcript. In the case of end of course assessments, determination shall be made once the final credits are applied to the official transcript in compliance with state regulations.

Case BL-5-7- 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, enters from a nonmember school, or the credits on the transcript are in doubt?

When transferring between traditional (6 credit) and nontraditional credit systems, a student's eligibility status shall be determined after converting the credits earned in the prior system in accordance with accepted state policies 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 within a school, 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 (or credit period when credits are recorded to the final transcript) by the number of possible credits earned that particular year (or credit period) 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 (or credit period) 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 for conversion shall be approved by the School Based Decision Making organization at the school and shall be in place for all students and not restricted to student-athletes.

For those coming from other systems and nonmember schools, member schools must determine the number of credits that have previously been earned in accordance with state standards and regulations, and then check the normal progress chart in Case Situation 5-4 to determine eligibility.

Case BL-5-8- How do summer school or correspondence courses count toward satisfying the academic requirements of Bylaw 5, Sec. 1?

Summer school or accredited correspondence courses may be used to make up a failure or deficiency in the academic work of the preceding year, provided the course work (including all required examinations) is completed, the grade received and credit recorded prior to the first day of school for the student body.

Case BL-5-9- What are the options for the use of online courses, credit recovery, or other nontraditional courses to be used to obtain eligibility under Bylaw 5, Sec. 1(a) and (b)?

Bylaw 5, Sec. 1(a) is solely determined on the first day of school for the student body by examining the number of credits that have been recorded to the transcript. That number includes any full credit awarded and recorded in compliance with all applicable state regulations. Therefore, any type of credit, regardless of the method in which it is earned, may be used for this standard, but must be officially recorded on the student's permanent record (transcript) on or before the first day of school for the student body.

Bylaw 5, Sec. 1(b) is an opportunity to reinstate eligibility for those students who do not meet the standards of Sec. 1(a), but only after a defined period of ineligibility. Online/distance learning other than full-term offerings may not be used in the calculation of this reinstatement.

Case BL-5-10- If a student is ineligible at the beginning of the school year according to Bylaw 5, Sec. 1(a), can this student become eligible during the school year?

Yes. A student-athlete who is ineligible due to failing to maintain normal progress as defined in Sec. 1(a) may have eligibility reinstated for the following and subsequent semesters/ trimesters/years providing he/she meets all provisions for reinstatement in Bylaw 5, Sec. 1(b).

A student may be reinstated at the end of the semester/ trimester that the student is ineligible, depending upon the school academic calendar structure provided that there are opportunities for the entire student body to add permanent credits to the transcript at those breaks between semesters/ trimesters.

Schools with a semester setup (where credits are recorded at the end of each semester) have reinstatement opportunities at the end of the semester in which the student was ineligible.

Schools with a trimester setup (where credits are recorded at the end of each trimester) have reinstatement opportunities at the end of each trimester in which the student was ineligible.

Schools with a year-long calendar where credits are only recorded at the end of the year do not have a mid-year reinstatement opportunity for athletes ineligible on the first day of school.

Case BL-5-11- 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-5-12- When do schools perform the weekly grade check to determine the continual progress provisions of Bylaw 5, Sec. 2?

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-5-13- How does Bylaw 5, Sec. 3 relate to schools with nontraditional (block) schedules?

A student shall be passing in four full credit hours (240 minutes) worth of classes as defined in Bylaw 5, Sec. 3. For example, if a student were attempting four full credits of one and one-half hours each, he/she would need to pass three (four and one half hours) worth. As another example, if the periods are 80 minutes, he/she would need to pass three.

It is imperative when interpreting this rule that the amount of credits attempted and class length is considered when determining the eligibility of a student-athlete as the student shall pass 240 minutes of class (four full credit hours).

Case BL-5-14- 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.

Case BL-5-15- 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 or competition in scrimmages or contests after July 15 and prior to the start of classes in the fall shall be checked to ensure that the student is on schedule to graduate per Bylaw 5, Sec. 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.

Case BL-5-16- Does compliance with Bylaw 5 ensure that students will be eligible to compete after high school at the collegiate level?

No. Schools and student-athletes shall 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 at the collegiate level. This creates the scenario where a credit may apply to high school graduation, but not be applicable to college admission or qualification.

It is also important that school administrators and prospective NCAA and NAIA student-athletes carefully monitor changing academic requirements at various levels. NCAA information is available at websites such as <http://www.ncaa.org/static/2point3/> and NAIA information can be found at <http://www.playnaia.org/>.