

**Beaufort County School District  
2.0 Grade Point Average Policy  
Frequently Asked Questions**



Question	Answer
<p><b>What is the Beaufort County School District "2.0" Average Policy, and to which students does the policy apply?</b></p>	<p>The "2.0" Average Policy (adopted October 2011) requires that all student athletes in grades 6-12 must maintain at least a 2.0 Grade Point Average (GPA) for the courses in which the student was enrolled during the preceding semester. In other words, the student's "cumulative" GPA must be 2.0 or higher.</p>
<p><b>Why does Beaufort County School District have a 2.0 minimum GPA requirement for student athletes while other districts in South Carolina do not?</b></p>	<p>South Carolina has raised academic requirements for all students in recent years. After a series of community forums, the Beaufort County School District Board of Education voted to raise requirements for athletes. If a student wants to represent his/her school in athletics, that student must first meet the academic standard (2.0 GPA). Some state school districts already have some form of a "2.0" Average Policy. We also strive to have all student athletes' college ready for scholarship opportunities.</p>
<p><b>Who is responsible for monitoring the grades of students who participate on school athletics teams?</b></p>	<p>The responsibility for monitoring student grades is shared by parents, students and school personnel. Students should always know their academic standing in each class. Parents should maintain regular communication with the school (including parent conferences) concerning the progress of their children, and this includes reviewing progress reports and report cards. High school and middle school athletic directors are responsible for monitoring the grades of students with the assistance of parents, teachers, coaches, sponsors and guidance counselors.</p>
<p><b>How are parents notified of their children's eligibility status?</b></p>	<p>Schools have procedures to notify parents throughout the year of their children's status. It is particularly important for schools to notify parents at the end of the school year if their children will be ineligible to participate the next semester and will need to pass the appropriate course(s) in Summer School (if offered) in order to be eligible.</p>
<p><b>Can a student who is ineligible at the beginning of a semester become eligible later in that same semester?</b></p>	<p>No. A student who is ineligible at the end of a semester due to a GPA of less than 2.0 will remain ineligible during subsequent semesters until she/he meets District requirements. Even if an ineligible student raises the GPA above the 2.0 minimum, she/he must maintain the GPA requirement for the remainder of that semester and wait until the next full semester to participate.</p>
<p><b>How can parents appeal their child's eligibility?</b></p>	<p>Appeals are made to the principal, who, in consultation with the athletics director, will hear the case but follow the Board of Education's policy. While the district's Chief Student Services Officer may be present for a school meeting, the principal's decision is final.</p>

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<p><b>Does the policy give any special consideration for rising 6<sup>th</sup>-graders and 9<sup>th</sup>-graders during their transition from elementary to middle and from middle to high school?</b></p>	<p>Yes. All students entering the 6th and 9th grades will be allowed to participate in school athletics and will have one semester to obtain the required 2.0 GPA. Students also must meet South Carolina High School League requirements. According to the SCHSL, sixth-graders cannot participate in sports.</p>
<p><b>Does this rule include special education students?</b></p>	<p>Special education students being served in a non-diploma program are eligible to participate if they are successfully meeting the requirements of their Individual Education Plans. Diploma program special education students must have a 2.0 GPA.</p>
<p><b>How does the policy affect out-of-district transfer students?</b></p>	<p>Out-of-district transfer students with a GPA of less than 2.0, but who are eligible according to SCHSL rules, will be eligible to participate on probation for one semester. Thereafter, the transfer student must meet the District's 2.0 GPA eligibility requirement.</p>
<p><b>What type of academic assistance is available for students who are in danger of falling below the required 2.0 minimum GPA?</b></p>	<p>Each middle and high school has an after-school tutorial program available to all students. This program is mandatory for students who participate in school athletics and who are in danger of falling below the 2.0 GPA. Interim reports, report card grades, teacher/sponsor recommendations and coaching staff requirements are used to determine the pool of students required to attend the after-school tutorial program.</p>
<p><b>Can a student use summer school grades to help with eligibility?</b></p>	<p>Yes. For high school students, a maximum of two credits earned in a State Department of Education-approved summer school may apply toward first semester eligibility. For middle school students, a maximum of two grades earned in a SDE-approved summer school may be used.</p>
<p><b>Will an ineligible student be allowed to practice with a team/group?</b></p>	<p>No. The District's definition of "participation" in athletics includes practicing with a team/group, dressing out or playing in competition.</p>