

ATHLETIC DIRECTOR'S ROLE

In order to establish appropriate academic standards and enhance communication between the student, classroom teacher, lead academic teacher, head coach and parents/guardians, the athletic director at each OPS high school will provide administrative oversight for a successful Academic Coaching Program. The following is a list of responsibilities the athletic director will complete in order for the Academic Coaching Program to be a functional piece of the student experience:

- The athletic director will designate staff members to perform the job functions of the lead academic teacher as well as the team of academic coaches. Duties and responsibilities will be communicated from the athletic director to the lead academic teacher.
- The athletic director will provide expectations to the head coach of each activity program regarding the participation of students in the Academic Coach Program. The athletic director will expect all head coaches to meet the requirements to support the Academic Coach Program.
- The athletic director will provide the necessary academic information to the lead academic teacher and head coaches in order to assist the academic coaches and students in their designated tutoring sessions. The athletic director will have the authority to place students on academic probation and will communicate that information to head coaches and the lead academic teacher.
- The athletic director will carry out Omaha Public Schools Board of Education policy designated for students involved in sanctioned NSAA activities.
- The athletic director will be responsible to address concerns regarding the Academic Coaching Program arising from students, parents/guardians, teachers, coaches and/or other staff members involved in the Academic Coaching Program.

HEAD COACH'S ROLE

The head coach of each sanctioned NSAA activity will provide the necessary leadership to ensure the success of the Academic Coaching Program. The following represents the expectations for all head coaches in order for the Academic Coaching Program to be a functional piece of the student experience:

- The head coach will meet with the academic coach to review the expectations of the academic coach. This meeting should determine the day, time, location and frequency of all academic coaching sessions.
- The head coach will arrange a meeting with the academic coach and the students to be served. The meeting must include the head coach and stress the importance of regular attendance for those students participating in the Academic Coaching Program. Appropriate consequences must be identified for those that fail to attend without cause and should be clearly explained to the students and the academic coach.
- The head coach, or a designee, will visit the site of each academic coaching session to note those in attendance and to take the opportunity to visit with the academic coach and determine any areas of concern or issues needing to be addressed.
- The head coach will ensure that the expectations of the Academic Coaching Program and the attendance requirements are met.
- The head coach will enforce any consequences or penalties associated with the students failure to meet expectations or attendance requirements.
- The head coach will carry out Omaha Public Schools Board of Education policy designated for students involved in sanctioned NSAA activities as instructed by the athletic director.

COUNSELING SUPPORT FOR STUDENTS

Each high school counseling office supports the student by:

- Working with athletic departments at each high school to identify and individually support potential National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) students
- Providing communication to students and families regarding NCAA eligibility timelines and guidelines
- Providing orientation sessions (starting with eighth grade)
- Providing one-on-one academic conferences
- Ensuring that students are taking and passing approved core courses
- Ensuring that students are taking the ACT
- Continuing to monitor NCAA guidelines for any potential changes
- Providing ongoing communication between counselors, coaches, students and parents

Currently, OPS high school counselors oversee students' course selection, monitors grades, GPA and test preparation for students. The counseling department continues to communicate to all students NCAA eligibility requirements and timelines.



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ACADEMIC ELIGIBILITY

FOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

PARTICIPATING IN NSAA SANCTIONED ACTIVITIES



NSAA ACTIVITIES

- | | |
|------------------------|--------------------------|
| • CROSS COUNTRY | • BOYS GOLF |
| • FOOTBALL | • SOCCER |
| • GIRLS GOLF | • GIRLS TENNIS |
| • SOFTBALL | • TRACK AND FIELD |
| • BOYS TENNIS | • DEBATE |
| • VOLLEYBALL | • JOURNALISM |
| • BASKETBALL | • MUSIC |
| • SWIMMING | • PLAY PRODUCTION |
| • WRESTLING | • SPEECH |
| • BASEBALL | |

PURPOSE

To communicate system-wide academic eligibility guidelines for students who participate in Nebraska School Activities Association (NSAA) sanctioned activities.

BACKGROUND

In the Fall of 2013 the Omaha Public Schools (OPS) Board of Education (BOE) passed a policy outlining academic eligibility procedures to be used by high school students who choose to participate in any NSAA nonathletic and/or athletic extracurricular activity. The sanctioned NSAA activities are: cross country, football, golf, softball, tennis, volleyball, basketball, swimming, wrestling, baseball, soccer, track & field, debate, journalism, music, play production and speech. Please refer to the NSAA web page at www.nsaahome.org for additional details regarding NSAA sponsored activities.

IMPLEMENTATION PRACTICE

The policy will be phased in the following manner:

2013-2014: Academic Coaching Program implemented at all seven high schools.

2014-2015: Beginning with the freshmen class of 2018, each student participating in sanctioned NSAA activities will participate in the Academic Coaching Program if the student has one or more failing grade(s) or his/her Term (quarter) GPA is below a 2.0. Any student failing more than one course will be ineligible to participate in competition until the next grading period (quarter) in which the student will need to demonstrate that he/she is in passing status in all courses.

2015-2016: Beginning with the freshmen class of 2019, each student participating in sanctioned NSAA activities will participate in the Academic Coaching Program if the student has one or more failing grade(s) or his/her Term (quarter) GPA is below a 2.0. Any student failing any courses will be ineligible to participate in competition until the next grading period (quarter) in which the student will need to demonstrate that he/she is in passing status in all courses.

2016-2017: Beginning with the freshmen class of 2020 and beyond, each student participating in sanctioned NSAA activities will participate in the Academic Coaching Program if the student has one or more failing grade(s) or his/her Term (quarter) GPA is below a 2.0. Any student not meeting the Term (quarter) GPA 2.0 or failing any course will be ineligible for competition until the next grading period (quarter) when the student will need to demonstrate a Term (quarter) GPA of 2.0 or above OR a Cumulative (CUM) GPA of 2.0 or above and be in passing status in all courses.

Every student is required to meet the sanctioned NSAA activities requirements.

GOALS FOR ACADEMIC COACHING

- To enhance academic achievement opportunities for all OPS students participating in sanctioned NSAA activities.
- To assist incoming freshmen with the transition from middle school to high school.
- To increase communication between the school guidance directors, athletic directors, teachers, coaches and students participating in sanctioned NSAA activities regarding eligibility for Division I or Division II and other post-secondary options.

ACADEMIC COACHING REQUIREMENTS

Beginning in the 2014-2015 school year, **freshmen** students participating in or planning to participate in sanctioned NSAA activities will be required to attend a two-hour weekly session until first quarter report cards are issued. Incoming freshman who earned a 8th grade last quarter Term GPA of 2.0 or above and have no failing courses are excused from this requirement. For students who are required to participate in the Academic Coaching Program, grades will be checked at the conclusion of the first quarter to determine whether or not they are required to continue with the program. **Freshmen students, who have a “D” or “F” or whose Term GPA is below a 2.0 must continue to attend academic coaching sessions until the student is passing all courses and the Term GPA at the next quarter grading period is at or above at 2.0.** The minimum number of academic coaching sessions per week is one two-hour session; however, some students who are failing may need to attend up to three two-hour academic tutoring sessions. Any freshmen, at any time, are welcome to attend the Academic Coaching Program.

At each grading period, or every two to three weeks, the academic coach will complete a grade review for each student participating in or planning to participate in sanctioned NSAA activities. **If a student – grades 10th, 11th, and 12th – has two or more failing grades or has a GPA below a 2.0, he/she will be required to attend the academic coaching session until the next grading period, upon which the student should be able to demonstrate mastery of the failing courses.** The above-mentioned students (grades 10th, 11th & 12th) who are in season are required to attend the two hour weekly academic coaching session after practice. A meal will be provided for the students following practice. If the student (grades 10th, 11th & 12th) is not in season, he/she will be required to attend the two hour weekly academic tutoring session after school and can ride the late activity bus home.

Any student participating in sanctioned NSAA activities grades 10th, 11th & 12th who is above a 2.0 or not failing coursework is also welcome to attend at any time an academic coaching session, but it is not required.

CONTENT OF ACADEMIC COACHING SESSIONS

The academic coaching sessions will provide assistance to students in all of the following areas:

- Provide study, test-taking (ACT), organizational and time management skills.
- Monitor academic progress to assist in helping students achieve academic success during their high school experience.
- Assist students in preparing for post-secondary educational and extracurricular opportunities.
- Guide students in their understanding of college/university requirements, including, but not limited to, the rules and regulations of the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA) and the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA).

LEAD ACADEMIC TEACHER'S ROLE

The lead academic teacher supports the freshmen for the Academic Coaching Program. Academic teachers are responsible for organizing all aspects of the after school Academic Coaching Program for students in the 10th, 11th and 12th grades. The lead academic teacher has several duties:

- To obtain rosters for all activities, assign academic coaches to teams and maintain a schedule of academic coaching sessions.
- To maintain up-to-date rosters in Infinite Campus by communicating with the building's data administrator.
- To serve as a substitute for any last minute sessions, if needed, as well as provide resources for academic coaching sessions such as books and short lessons on academic skills.
- To assist with any issues and problem-solve between students, coaches, academic coaches and, if necessary, the athletic director.

