



UIL Eligibility “Talking Points”

1. Academic eligibility is necessary for **ALL** extracurricular activities **not just UIL events**: academics, athletics, fine arts, career and technology, or any other school-related extracurricular activity.
2. Definition of extracurricular: “Extracurricular activities include, but are not limited to, public performances, contests, demonstrations, displays, and club activities...” “In addition, an activity shall be subject to the provisions for an extracurricular activity if **ANY ONE** of the following criteria apply:
 - a) The activity is competitive;
 - b) The activity is held in conjunction with another activity that is considered to be extracurricular;
 - c) The activity is held off campus, except in a case in which adequate facilities do not exist on campus;
 - d) The general public is invited; or
 - e) An admission is charged.

A student ineligible to participate in an extracurricular activity, but who is enrolled in a state-approved course that requires demonstration of the mastery of the essential knowledge and skills in a public performance, may participate in the performance subject to the following requirements and limitations:

- a) Only the criterion listed in (d) above applies to the performance
 - b) The requirement for student participation in public is stated in the essential knowledge and skills of the course.
3. A student who passes all courses on his/her report card is eligible for the next entire grading period.
 4. The three-week grade check is as much a deadline for grade reports as the end of a grading period (report card). The date listed for three-week grade checks on our eligibility calendar is **THE** date – the **ONLY** date – grades may be checked for removing a student from the ineligible list. Our eligibility calendar was approved by UIL and **NO** deviation from the dates listed is possible.
 5. “All activity coaches and directors are responsible for obtaining official grade reports from the individual the principal designates as the keeper of official grades before the student represents the school. This provision applies to all grading periods. It also applies to all three-school week evaluation periods for ineligible students.” Progress reports carried by the students from class to class **MAY NOT** be used as the three-week grade check.
 6. Ineligible students are not permitted to travel to competitive events with the school group. Students who assist with contests or performances are required to be eligible. This includes “student managers, photographers, scorekeepers, trainers, statisticians, stage crews, and others who assist the coach, director or sponsor,” even though they do not participate in the performance or contest.

7. "Ineligible students may be introduced as members of the team or group" during parent night activities. "However, they may not be in uniform or seated with the student organization they represent during the event."
8. "All students may attend" pep rallies. However, only eligible students may actually take part in pep rally performances, leading cheers, participating in dance routines, playing in the band, giving speeches, etc."

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

I. Student Eligibility

- Eligibility for participation is defined in the Texas Education Code, Section 33.081
- Referred to as "No Pass, No Play"
- Student must maintain a passing grade in ALL classes to perform, compete or participate in any activity designated as "extracurricular"
- Exception: **High school courses** designated as "advanced" courses are exempt from this rule
 - **SB 1517** – The courses that are exempt include all **Advanced Placement (AP)**, **Honors**, and **Dual Credit Courses** in the subjects of English language arts, mathematics, science, social studies, economics, and languages other than English.
 - **Please note:** **there are no exempted courses at the junior high (grades 6-8) level.**

II. Academic Eligibility for Participation During School Year

• Participation during 1st week of school

- Students beginning grades nine and below must have been promoted from a lower grade prior to the beginning of the current school year.
- Students beginning their second year of high school must have earned five (5) credits which count toward state graduation requirements.
- Students beginning their third year of high school either must have earned a total of ten (10) credits which count toward state graduation requirements OR a total of five (5) credits which count toward state graduation requirements must have been earned during the twelve (12) months preceding the first day of the current school year.
- Student beginning their fourth year of high school either must have earned a total of fifteen (15) credits which count toward state graduation requirements OR a total of five (5) credits which count toward state graduation requirements must have been earned during the twelve (12) months preceding the first day of the current school year.
- Exceptions: a) When a migrant student enrolls for the first time during a school year, all criteria cited above applies. All other students who enroll too late to earn a passing grade for a grading period are ineligible. b) High school students transferring from out-of-state may be eligible the first six weeks of school if they

meet the criteria cited above OR if school officials are able to determine that they would have been eligible if they had remained in the out-of-state school from which they are transferring.

• **Participation after the first six weeks of the school year**

- A student who receives, at the end of any six weeks grading period (after the first six weeks of school) a grade below 70 in any class (other than those identified as “advanced courses”) or a student with disabilities who fails to meet the standards in the Individual Education Plan (IEP) may NOT participate in any extracurricular activities for at least three (3) school weeks.
- The student who has been ineligible (as described above) may regain eligibility when the principal and teachers determine that he/she has: 1) earned a passing grade in ALL classes at the end of the next three week reporting period AND 2) has completed the three school weeks of ineligibility (waiting period).

III. Reporting Periods

- All schools must check for all participants at the end of the first six weeks of the school year. From that point, grades are checked at the end of each three week reporting period and each six week reporting period. Students who pass all classes for the six week reporting period are eligible until the end of the next six week reporting period.
- All students are eligible during a school holiday of a full calendar week or more.
- Students who do not pass one, or more classes for the six week reporting period lose eligibility for a three school week period. For purposes of the law, “three school weeks” is defined as fifteen (15) class days. Exception: One, but only one of the three school weeks may consist of only three or four class days, provided school has been dismissed for a scheduled holiday period.
- All students are eligible during a school holiday of a full calendar week or more.

IV. Grace/Waiting Period

- A seven calendar day “grace” period, or a seven calendar “waiting” period begins at the end of each current reporting period. This grace period/waiting period is always applicable.
- A student who does not pass one or more classes for the six week reporting period loses eligibility for participation. This student may continue to participate during a seven day “grace period” which immediately takes effect the day after the reporting period has ended. The student may not participate after the end of the school day on the seventh day of the grace period.
- A student who has lost eligibility due to failing one or more classes during the previous six week reporting period may regain eligibility at the end of the next three week reporting period, if passing grades are attained in **ALL** classes. This student may not participate immediately, however. A seven day “waiting period” which immediately

takes effect the day after the reporting period has ended must pass. The student regains eligibility at the end of the class day on the seventh day of the waiting period.

- If a six week grading period or three week reporting period ends on the last day prior to a school holiday of one calendar week or more, the seven calendar day grace period (to continue participation) and the seven calendar day waiting period (to regain eligibility) begin the first day that classes resume.
- A student may continue to practice, rehearse, or workout during the period of his/her ineligibility, but may not compete or perform in any extracurricular activities (e.g. athletic games, or competitions of any type)
- All students are eligible during a school holiday of a full calendar week or more.

Please note: Students may regain eligibility at the end of a three weeks reporting period, or at the end of a six weeks reporting period. Students can only become “ineligible” at the end of a six weeks reporting period.

V. Grade Reporting

- **Incomplete** – A student with an “Incomplete” grade at the end of a grading period is **ineligible** at the end of the seven day grace period **UNLESS** the “Incomplete” was replaced with a passing grade prior to the end of the seven day grace period.
- **Grade lower than “70”** – After a failing grade has been recorded for the grading period, the only situations in which a student’s grade may be changed to passing and eligibility restored are as follows: an examination of course grade issued by a classroom teacher is final and may not be changed unless the grade is arbitrary, erroneous, or not consistent with school district grading policy, as determined by the board of trustees. According to the Texas Education Agency and UIL, the board’s decision may not be appealed.
- **Extra credit work** – Extra credit work or work (including re-test) turned in after the grading period or evaluation has ended **may not be considered** when determining a student’s eligibility for extracurricular activities **EXCEPT** in the case of an “Incomplete” as noted above.