



DEPARTMENT OF K-12 CURRICULUM
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Information Only

TO: Area Superintendents and High School Principals

FROM: Janis Andrews, Ed.D., Chief Academic Officer *J.A.*

SUBJECT: HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETICS – DIVISION OF ATHLETICS

There have been several updates to the policies and procedures relating to high school athletics. The National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) updated their initial eligibility requirements for student athletes beginning August 1, 2016. In addition, two statutory changes specific to high school athletics in Florida occurred this legislative session. Information regarding each of the three updates is included below.

Updates from the NCAA regarding eligibility for Division I and Division II student athletes include the following:

- College-bound student athletes first entering a Division I college or university on or after August 1, 2016, will need to meet new academic rules in order to receive athletic aid (scholarship), practice, or compete during their first year. This change will impact students entering ninth grade beginning in the 2012–2013 school year.
- Academic rules that will go into effect in 2016 are significantly more rigorous and will require a higher grade point average (GPA) with correlated standardized test scores.
- An academic redshirt component was added.

The following links are provided by the NCAA and contain more detailed information about the requirements to become a NCAA Division I student athlete.

- [NCAA Eligibility Website](#)
- [Guide for the College Bound Student Athlete](#)
- [Eligibility Quick Reference Sheet](#)

The chart below reflects the NCAA initial eligibility standards beginning August 1, 2016, in comparison to the Florida statutory requirements for high school graduation:

NCAA Requirements for Full Qualifiers (beginning August 1, 2016)	Florida's High School Graduation Requirements
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete sixteen courses <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➢ Ten of the sixteen core courses must be completed before senior year. ➢ Seven of the ten core courses must be English, math, or science. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Successfully complete a minimum of twenty-four credits to include the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➢ Four credits in English ➢ Four credits in mathematics (including Algebra I, Geometry, Algebra II)

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<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Have a minimum core course GPA of 2.300<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Grades earned in the ten required courses are "locked in" for purposes of GPA calculation.• Meet the competition sliding scale requirement of GPA and ACT/SAT score (this is a new scale with increased GPA/test score requirements).• Graduate from high school	<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Three credits in science (including Biology)➤ Three credits in social studies (including United States History, World History, Economics and United States Government)➤ One credit in physical education to include the integration of health➤ One credit in fine or performing arts➤ Eight electives
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The following legislative changes were included within [House Bill 1403](#), effective July 1, 2012, updating:

- Eligibility and transfer requirements for students participating in interscholastic athletics
- FHSAA policies, procedures, and bylaws
- Policies related to background screening exceptions for certain investigators for the FHSAA

Please make this information available to students and parents.

The FHSAA is a non-profit governing body that is responsible for overseeing all Florida high school athletic programs and events. The Department of Education does not have legislative authority over high school athletics or the FHSAA. If you would like to contact the FHSAA for information on policies or procedures, the contact information is included below:

Florida High School Athletic Association
801 NW 80th Boulevard
Gainesville, Florida 32606
Phone: (800) 461-7895
Website: <http://www.fhsaa.org>

EWG/JA/KO/LP/NK/ES:sm



Approved by: _____
E. Wayne Gent, Superintendent