

TO: Board of Education

FROM: Mike Lawton (Ath. Director), Heidi Deininger (Principal)

RE: Academic Eligibility Changes

At their December meeting, the IHSA Board of Directors changed their bylaw regarding academic eligibility for extra-curricular activities. Traditionally, the IHSA requires that students pass 25 credit hours (5 classes) per semester to be eligible to compete the following semester. The IHSA Board stated that they have empathy for the impact that virtual learning has had on students during this unprecedented school year and recognize that the most marginalized students are often the most significantly impacted by the current limitations to learning. As such, they reduced their semester requirement to 15 credit hours (3 classes) passed. They indicated that this change still provide an appropriate emphasis on academics, while trying to provide as many students as possible the opportunity to participate.

Our traditional OCUSD requirement is more stringent than that of the IHSA in that we require students to pass six classes (not five) to be eligible to compete. Given the current learning environment, we are proposing that our local eligibility semester requirement be lowered for this current Spring 2021 semester to that of the IHSA's traditional level – ***a student needs to pass five courses from the previous semester (Fall 2020) in order to be eligible to compete the following semester (not six).***

Given our current data from the recently concluded Fall semester, this change would affect approximately two high school students who would normally not be eligible but now would be able to participate.

This would be a one time adjustment and eligibility would revert back to normal for the Spring 2022/Fall 2022 transition unless the IHSA again adjusts their requirement.