



# Iowa High School Music Association

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Dear Administrator (Superintendent/Principal/Activities Director – 3 copies enclosed),

The IHSMA Constitutional Amendment that governs academic eligibility for all IHSMA sponsored and IHSMA sanctioned events has been approved by a vote of our member schools. The amendment will take effect immediately and as such the grades earned during the first “grading period” will be used to determine eligibility for the second “grading period”.

## **IHSMA Constitution Amendment ARTICLE VI Eligibility**

**Section 1.** All participants must be enrolled and in good standing in a school that is a member or associate member in good standing with the Iowa High School Music Association. All participants must be under 20 years of age. All participants shall be enrolled students of the school and in good standing; they shall be enrolled in at least four full-credit subjects, each of one period or “hour” or the equivalent thereof, at all times. Coursework taken under the provisions of Iowa Code chapter 261C, postsecondary enrollment options, for which a school district or accredited nonpublic school grants academic credit toward high school graduation shall be used in determining eligibility.

Each contestant shall be passing all coursework for which credit is given and shall be making adequate progress toward graduation requirements at the end of each grading period. “Grading period,” graduation requirements, and any interim periods of ineligibility are determined by local policy. For the purposes of this rule, “grading period” shall mean the period of time at the end of which a student in grades 9 through 12 receives a final passing grade and course credit is awarded.

If at the end of any grading period a participant receives a failing grade in any course for which credit is awarded, the participant is ineligible to participate in any competitive event sanctioned by the IHSMA or any IHSMA sponsored event that is non-graded (event doesn't effect course GPA) within a period of 30 consecutive **calendar** days. The period of ineligibility will begin with the first school day following the day grades are issued by the school district. A student with a disability who has an individualized education program (IEP) shall not be denied eligibility on the basis of scholarship if the student is making adequate progress, as determined by school officials, towards the goals and objectives on the student's individualized education program.

The maximum period of eligibility while in grades 7 and 8 shall be 4 semesters. The maximum period of eligibility while in grades 9 through 12 shall be 8 semesters. Pupils below the 9th grade may not participate in solo events.

A soloist, except piano, must be a member of the appropriate high school musical organization, if such exists, and must appear with that organization if it participates in any of the programs of the Association.

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The following are answers to some frequently asked or anticipated questions:

**Question 1: What is meant by “competitive event sanctioned by the IHSMA”?** Events sanctioned by the IHSMA include all music events that are competitive or evaluative in nature and are not directly administered by IHSMA (e.g. Le Mars hosts an invitational Jazz Choir competition). Competitive is defined as any event where placings/rankings (e.g. 1<sup>st</sup> Place, 2<sup>nd</sup> Place, Best in Class) are being awarded (a winner is being determined).

**Question 2: What is meant by “any IHSMA sponsored event that is non-graded (event doesn’t effect course GPA)”?** If the music class (Band, Choir, or Orchestra) in which the student is enrolled is offered for academic credit, the grade the student earns is recorded as part of their Grade Point Average, and their participation in the IHSMA event is required as part of that grade then the scholarship rule should not be applied.

Example 1: Boone offers Concert Band for full academic credit and the grade earned counts toward GPA. As part of their grade for Concert Band, the student is required to participate in the IHSMA Large Group Festival – this academic eligibility rule **would not** be applied because this event is evaluative.

Example 2: Boone has a Show Choir participating in an invitational event competing for 1<sup>st</sup> Place. Show Choir for Boone is an academic class (grades are issued and are recorded on the official transcript and count towards GPA). The scholarship rule **would** be applied in this instance because the event is competitive (the fact that the teacher wants to require participation and tie it to the grade does not matter).

**What is an IHSMA sponsored event?** IHSMA sponsored events include: IHSMA Marching Band Festival; All-State Auditions and Festival; IHSMA Jazz Band/Show Choir/Jazz Choir Festivals; IHSMA Piano Festival; IHSMA Solo/Small Ensemble Festival; and IHSMA Large Group Festival. With the exception of All-State, the festival offerings of IHSMA are all evaluative in nature not competitive. As such, participation in the All-State Festival will **always** fall under this academic eligibility rule.

**Should all public music appearances be under this rule?** That decision is left up to each local school district. In making that determination please remember that Band, Choir, and Orchestra, are courses **in the performing arts** and as such need the opportunity to assess each students progress through public performance opportunities that may or may not take place during the school day.

**What is meant by “grading period”?** A “grading period” is the period of time at the end of which a student receives a final grade and course credit is awarded for passing grades. Each school determines its own grading periods.

If you have other questions please feel free to contact me at 515-432-2013 or alan@ihsma.org

Sincerely,

Alan Greiner