



Bernard J. Sadusky, Ed.D.
Interim State Superintendent of Schools

200 West Baltimore Street • Baltimore, MD 21201 • 410-767-0100 • 410-333-6442 TTY/TDD • MarylandPublicSchools.org

December 29, 2011

The Honorable Martin O'Malley
Governor
State House
100 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401-1925

Dear Governor O'Malley:

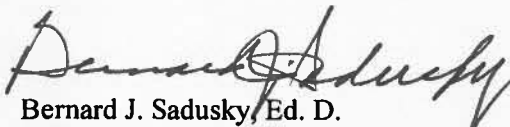
HB 364 Student Participation in High School Sports – Minimum Academic Requirements- Proposed Standards passed and was signed into law during the 2011 legislative session of the Maryland General Assembly. As approved, the law requires that “on or before December 31, 2011, the State Board of Education, in consultation with the county boards of education, shall report, in accordance with § 2-1246 of the State Government Article, to the Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee and the House Committee on Ways and Means, regarding the minimum academic performance standards that students in public high schools in the State should meet in order to participate in athletic competitions sanctioned by a county board of education. The report shall include recommendations regarding the curriculum content, minimum grade point average, and grade progress that public high school students should satisfy to be eligible to participate in athletic competition sanctioned by the county board.”

The Maryland Public Secondary Schools Athletic Association (MPSSAA) established an advisory committee in August to assist the State Board in developing the required recommendations. That committee was comprised of superintendents, principals, athletic supervisors, athletic directors, and coaches who reviewed the eligibility requirements for participation in interscholastic athletics of the twenty four local school systems in Maryland, as well as the requirements of nearby states.

On December 6, 2011 the attached recommendations were adopted by the State Board of Education during their regular meeting.

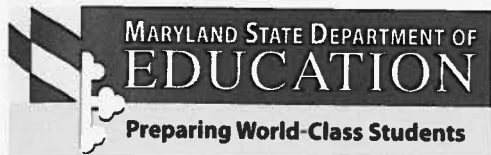
If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact Mr. Edward F. Sparks, Executive Director for Athletics, at 410.767.0376 or nsparks@msde.state.md.us.

Sincerely,



Bernard J. Sadusky, Ed. D.
Interim State Superintendent of Schools

BJS:efs/sk
Enclosure



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December 29, 2011

The Honorable Michael E. Busch
Speaker of the House
H-101 State House
State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401-1991

Dear Speaker Busch:

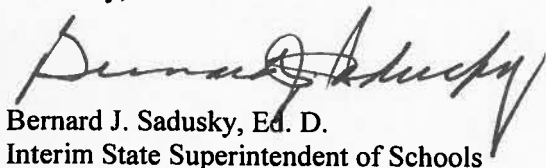
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December 29, 2011

The Honorable Thomas V. "Mike" Miller
President of the Senate
H-101 State House
State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401-1991

Dear President Miller:

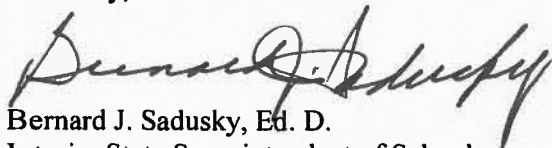
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Maryland State Board of Education

Proposed Minimum Academic Standards for Students Participating in Interscholastic Athletics

Realizing both the benefits derived from participating in interscholastic athletics and the intricacies of each local school system's grading policy, the State Board of Education recommends that local school systems enact academic eligibility standards that maintain interscholastic athletics as an integral part of the total educational process and reflect the following:

- The curriculum content for high school students participating in interscholastic athletics is in accordance with the minimum Maryland high school state requirements for graduation.
- High school students participating in interscholastic athletics shall demonstrate a minimum high school grade point average (GPA) of 2.0 or equivalent according to each local school system's grading criteria.
- The grade progress of high school students participating in interscholastic athletics reflects satisfactory credits earned towards the fulfillment of the Maryland high school state requirements for graduation.