

Determining Eligibility

Date of Birth

A student cannot reach his/her 15th birthday on or before August 1st of the current school year.

Semester vs. 9 Weeks

Most parents are unfamiliar with “semesters” since they are not often used in elementary schools. We have a total of 4 marking periods that make up one school year. Each marking period is 9 weeks in length. A semester is two marking periods combined. For example, the 1st semester is the 1st and 2nd marking periods combined and the 2nd semester is the 3rd and 4th marking periods combined. Our eligibility is based on semester grades and not by individual marking periods.

GPA: Grade Point Average

- **Information:** The Virginia Beach Public Schools Grading Scale is based on a 4-point system. Each letter grade is worth the following number of points:
 - **A – 4 points**
 - **B – 3 points**
 - **C – 2 points**
 - **D – 1 point**
 - **E – 0 points**

To calculate a GPA, you need to award each letter grade the proper number of points, add all of the values together, and then divide by the total number of classes. For example:

Class	Grade	Points	Outcome
English	A	4	When all of the points are added, the total = 18. You then divide by the total number of classes, which is 6. This GPA = 3.0
Math	B	3	
Science	C	2	
Social Studies	A	4	
Elective	B	3	
Elective	C	2	

- **First Semester:** To calculate eligibility for the first semester, we use the **second semester** grades from the previous school year (NOT the final grades).

Class	2 nd Semester	Outcome
English	B	The GPA for the 2 nd semester of the previous school year is 2.83, so this student is eligible for 1 st semester interscholastic activities.
Math	B	
Science	C	
Social Studies	D	
Elective	A	
Elective	A	

- **Second Semester:** To calculate eligibility for the second semester, we use the **first semester** grades from the current school year.

Class	1 st Semester	Outcome
English	B	The GPA for the 1 st semester of the current school year is 2.0, so this child is eligible for 2 nd semester interscholastic activities.
Math	C	
Science	D	
Social Studies	D	
Elective	C	
Elective	B	

“Pass 5 Classes” Rule

- **First Semester:** Students must pass at least 5 classes from the previous **YEAR** (final grades) in order to be eligible. The second semester grades do **not** count for this rule.

Class	2 nd Semester	Final Grade	Outcome
English	B	B	Although the GPA for the semester = 2.0 and they passed 5 classes for the semester, this student did not pass 5 classes for the year. Therefore, this student is not eligible.
Math	D	D	
Science	E	E	
Social Studies	D	E	
Elective	B	A	
Elective	A	B	

- **Second Semester:** Students must pass 5 classes from the first semester of the current school year in order to be eligible. Even if they meet the GPA requirement, they still must pass 5 classes to be eligible.

Class	1 st Semester	Outcome
English	A	Even though the GPA for the semester = 2.33, because they did not pass 5 classes for the 1 st semester, they are not eligible.
Math	E	
Science	A	
Social Studies	E	
Elective	B	
Elective	B	

Pass/Fail Classes

- If a student receives a “P” (passing grade) for a Pass/Fail Class, the “P” is not worth any points when calculating a GPA. That class is ignored and the GPA is divided by all other classes, not including the Pass/Fail Course. For example:

Class	1 st or 2 nd Semester	Outcome
English	A	By receiving a “P” for the Pass/Fail class, the total points (16) are only divided by the other 5 classes. The GPA = 3.2.
Math	C	
Science	A	
Social Studies	B	
Pass/Fail Class	P	
Elective	B	

However, when an “F” (failing grade) is received in a Pass/Fail Class, the “F” is the equivalent of an “E” in a regular class. For example:

Class	1 st or 2 nd Semester	Outcome
English	A	By receiving a failing “F” for the Pass/Fail class, the “F” receives zero points and the total points (16) are divided by all 6 classes. The GPA = 2.67.
Math	C	
Science	A	
Social Studies	B	
Pass/Fail Class	F	
Elective	B	

9 Weeks Classes

- When a student is enrolled in a class that is 9-weeks in length, it must be averaged with another 9-weeks course during the same semester to give a grade for the semester.

Class	1 st 9 Weeks	2 nd 9 Weeks	Semester	Outcome
English	B	B	B	To calculate the semester GPA, you first need to average the two 9-weeks elective grades. The two 9-weeks electives GPA = 3.5. Add this number (3.5) with the five remaining semester grades and divide by 6 (the two 9-weeks grades now equal one semester grade). Semester GPA = 2.08
Math	D	D	D	
Science	E	E	E	
Social Studies	B	B	B	
Elective	C	C	C	
9 Weeks Elective	B	-	B	
9 Weeks Elective	-	A	A	

Summer School

- (First Semester Calculation Only) Students must pass 5 classes from the previous **YEAR** (final grades) in order to be eligible. If they did not pass 5 classes at the end of the school year, a passing summer school class does count as a passing grade.

Class	2 nd Semester	Final Grade	Summer School	Outcome
English	B	B	-	Although the GPA for the 2 nd semester = 2.0, this student did not pass 5 classes for the year making them ineligible. However, because they took 2 summer school classes, those 2 classes now count as part of the "Pass 5" rule, making them eligible.
Math	D	D	-	
Science	E	E	C	
Social Studies	D	E	B	
Elective	A	A	-	
Elective	B	B	-	

In the example above, the 2nd semester GPA is recalculated when summer school classes are taken. The summer school grades do NOT replace the previous grades earned for those classes, but instead are added into the average of the 2nd semester grades. (Now all of the points are divided by 8 instead of 6.) The GPA is now 2.13.

6-Semesters Rule

- As of the 2007-2008 school year, a new "6-Semesters Rule" will go into effect. A student is only eligible for 6 consecutive semesters during middle school, with the 1st semester beginning when the child enters the 6th grade – regardless of whether or not they are on a team. Therefore, any student who repeats a grade while in middle school will not be eligible after their 6th semester of middle school.

Special Education Students

- Special Education students must make standard progress as determined by their IEP. Special Education students must meet the Grade Point Average rule in all non-special education courses. Special Education courses are not calculated into the GPA to determine eligibility. A Standard Progress Statement must be signed by a special education teacher or their case manager.

6th Graders – 1st Semester of Middle School

- Sixth graders entering into middle school for the first time are automatically eligible during their first semester of their 6th grade year. We do not look at grades from the previous semester of the 5th grade. However, 6th grade students must meet eligibility requirements for the second semester of their 6th grade year.

GPA Waivers

- If a student does not meet the GPA requirement for any given semester, they may request to use a GPA waiver for that semester to gain eligibility. A waiver can only be used once in middle school. The principal has the right to refuse any waiver request; waivers are not usually granted for 6th graders. Additional information regarding the GPA waiver can be obtained from Mrs. Lafler, Student Activities Coordinator.