Eligibility 101
1st Semester (FALL)

Note: Eligibility is done ONE SEMESTER AT A TIME. Do not upload two certificates in order to cover both semesters or mark the form as both 1st and 2nd semester. The 2nd semester cannot be determined until the 1st semester has concluded.

You will need to DOWNLOAD your eligibility documents and save the completed form to your computer before you will be able to UPLOAD your documents to the Eligibility Dropbox link.

- **Junior High**
  - 7th Graders are automatically eligible, but their names and the AAA form must still be sent in.
  - 8th Graders 1st semester are automatically eligible, but their names and the AAA form must still be sent in.
  - Second semester 8th graders and all 9th graders must pass 4 academic classes
  - Junior high students have 6 semesters of eligibility beginning with 7th grade.
  - A junior high student is not eligible for junior high competition if the student's 16th birthday is on or before August 1. In this situation, the student may be allowed to participate as a senior high student if all other eligibility rules are met.
  - If they repeat a year, they are **not eligible** for one year.
- **Senior High**
  - Students in grades 10-12:
    - Must pass 4 academic classes the previous semester
    - Must have a minimum **semester** GPA of 2.0 for the previous semester
    - Are not eligible if they turn 19 on or before August 1 of the current school year.
    - Are limited to 8 consecutive semesters beginning with the first semester of their 9th grade year.
- **Special Situations**
  - **Special Education** students do not have to meet the GPA requirement but must pass 4 academic courses on the IEP the previous semester.
  - **Dropouts** - Students who drop out of school or are expelled and re-enrolls are not eligible for one full semester.
  - **Home School** students must be enrolled in at least **ONE CLASS** at the school within the first 11 days of the semester.
  - **Virtual Students** – The eligibility for students enrolled in the Arkansas Virtual Academy, Arkansas Connections Academy or any other virtual school located in Arkansas and approved by ADE in the public-school district of the parent's domicile provided the student meets all AAA eligibility rules with the exception of the bona fide student rule.
    - The student must be enrolled at least one period a day in the AAA member school district of the parent's domicile.
  - **Transfer students** - A student who legally transfers to a new district is immediately eligible as long as they met the eligibility requirements in their previous district.
    - Add the student's name to your previous eligibility list, rename the file so that it includes your school name and the word REVISED (or UPDATED), then upload to the Eligibility dropbox link on the Eligibility page.

- **Bona fide students** – High school students must be enrolled in and regularly attending at least 4 academic courses in the high school in their school district.
    - Students who are enrolled in the Arkansas Virtual Academy are exempt from this requirement.
    - College courses may be used to meet the requirement.
- **SIP Program** – Students who pass the courses but fail to meet the GPA requirement may participate in a SIP program approved by the AAA. After completing a first semester in SIP, a student must improve their semester GPA by 1/10 of a percent to be eligible for a second consecutive semester of SIP.

***Academic Course definition**: A course in which class time is scheduled, which can be credited to meet minimum requirements for graduation, which is taught by a teacher required to have state certification in the course, and which has a course content guide approved by the Arkansas Dept. of Education.*

***NOTE:** Each semester, P.E./Athletics in grades 9-12 can be used to satisfy AAA eligibility with passing the four academic courses and maintaining a 2.0 GPA.*

See the AAA Handbook (beginning on page 34-47) regarding full eligibility requirements.

AAA Handbook 2026-2027