

**REVERE HIGH SCHOOL  
ATHLETICS  
101 School St.  
Revere, MA. 02151**



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Re: Athletic GPA's

I would like to respond to the school committee's recent discussions regarding the 2.0 GPA requirement for athletic eligibility at Revere High School. I feel I must defend the athletic department's position on the 2.0 rule.

I would like to clarify the position of Revere High School and the athletic department on the 2.0 requirement. All coaches fully support this requirement. Pre-season meetings with all the coaches are held annually. These meetings include discussions about maintaining academic rigor for student-athletes. Coaches are asked to be mindful of their players' academic status by reviewing progress reports on a regular basis. If, at any time, a player is in danger of not meeting the 2.0 requirement, I ask that the coaches encourage the student athletes to meet with their respective teachers to receive additional academic support. The coaches also may contact teachers directly to work collaboratively on behalf of a student-athlete so that s/he might have a better opportunity to meet the 2.0 GPA requirement.

The 2.0 rule has been in effect for 6 years. I have been personally involved with the process first as a physical education teacher and now as the Athletic Director since the requirement's inception. Admittedly, the first few years with this requirement were difficult and some student-athletes were deemed ineligible; however, coaches and student-athletes have adjusted to the requirement. During the 2009 fall season, approximately 95% of the student-athletes were deemed eligible by maintaining a 2.0 on their first term report card. This percentage has improved dramatically from approximately 80% of student-athletes eligible during the '02 fall season.

I believe the significant increase in the number of eligible student-athletes is directly related both to higher expectations from coaches and teachers as well as student-athletes

taking responsibility for their learning. Our student-athletes are displaying a stronger work ethic and seeking support for their academics. Our teachers are willing and available to provide this academic support to student-athletes experiencing academic difficulty. Coaches are monitoring our student-athletes' academic progress with bi-weekly check-ins. All of these elements are integral to the academic and athletic success of our student-athletes.

Generally, the most difficult time for student-athletes has been during the first term, of his/her freshman year. Each spring, I visit the middle schools and meet with students interested in playing athletics at RHS. During these meetings, I emphasize the importance of the first term grades and I clearly define the 2.0 requirement. However, this may not be enough.

It is during this freshman transition time when we lose a handful of student-athletes, approximately 5%, because they become ineligible. This specific transition time may be considered a necessary focus area for future discussions. I believe it is in our best interests to review and possibly revise the 2.0 requirement to more appropriately meet the needs of incoming freshmen student-athletes.

I recognize that we lose student-athletes due to the 2.0 rule and that some students get discouraged and may not even try out. As a physical education teacher, athletic trainer and now as Athletic Director, I have heard numerous complaints from parents and students with regards to our 2.0 rule. While I empathize with their feelings, I feel that academics should precede athletics. I know that as Athletic Director some people feel my view should be just the opposite; that I should focus on making as many student-athletes eligible for sports as possible. This is not the case. I firmly believe that for 99% of our student-athletes, their academic skills will take them much further in life than will their athletic ability.

The MIAA governs athletics in Massachusetts and it sets the academic eligibility requirements. The current MIAA requirements state that a student must pass four (4) classes per term. In reality, this means that a student may be eligible for athletics with two F's and four D-'s. I do not believe the MIAA requirement challenges student-athletes to balance their academics and athletics, nor does it establish a bar for academic excellence. The 2.0 requirement is reflective of our district's rigorous academic standards and demonstrates a commitment to developing the total student-athlete, something the BUDS can certainly take pride in.

As a school and community, we must embrace the eligibility requirement and the standard it sets. We must work as a team with parents, coaches, teachers, and student-athletes and all strive for the same goal, academic excellence.

Thank you,

Keith Correia