

## RULE 52 CLARIFICATION

Non traditional student eligibility: Be careful to accurately certify eligibility of students who are taking any courses on a college campus. These students' situations must be carefully scrutinized before any eligibility determination can be made. Among your considerations must be the following baseline requirements:

1. The college must not have an athletic program that the student could participate in
2. Your school committee must have certified that the college credits earned would be applied to the high school graduation requirements, and that the student is working towards the high school diploma through these college courses.
3. The high school principal has daily knowledge of the student's class attendance and academic achievement.
4. The high school principal has a written agreement with the college administration that recognizes the high school principal's authority to suspend the student from college classes.
5. The student's college grades must be assessed at the same time the high school report cards are released.

**The aforementioned are minimal requirements that must all be satisfied before the traditional eligibility process is applied.**

*A "Collaborative" is formed when two or more schools enter into a contract to combine to offer educational services to students attending participating schools, approved by the school committees of each community, with the principal of each school having authority and supervision over the students and with the student working toward a diploma of the school of residence. Payment for tuition at the collaborative school would be the responsibility of the sending school. (In all of these cases "school of residence" refers to the school that the student would attend if assigned by the school committee where his or her parent(s) reside.)*

*"Detached" schools are separate facilities or campuses such as disciplinary or special education or technical/vocational programs under the supervision of the superintendent of the school of residence. No separate tuition is charged, as the schools are under the educational budget of the towns or cities of residence. Detached schools, unlike collaborative schools, are single district institutions and do not involve more than one school district.*

*"Alternative schools" provide opportunities to attend programs approved by the school committee and under the supervision and jurisdiction of the MIAA Member School Principal that do not necessarily coincide with programs for the general student population. Often these schools are for students who have difficulties with the usual educational setting.*

*"Non-Traditional" programs may be offered by the school as contained in the study guide under the Course of Study, available to any student of the school who meets the threshold requirements. This includes students taking college courses, dual enrollment with other schools, school-to-work or work-study programs or other opportunities not offered as part of the traditional curriculum. The student must remain under the supervision and jurisdiction of the MIAA Member School Principal, and be in full compliance with the standards established by that school committee. The student must also be working toward a diploma from the school of residence.*

Be careful of **athletic eligibility involving students who are outplaced or attending collaboratives**. Where a student might be eligible for an athletic team depends in part upon the answers to the following questions:

What school is awarding the diploma?

What principal may suspend the student from classes?

What principal has daily knowledge of attendance and academic achievement?

If any of these answers does not point to the school which the student would like to represent, then that student is not eligible. Students in collaboratives are most likely to be eligible, if eligible at all, at the sending school, and not the school that hosts the collaborative.

**MIAA Handbook Rule 52: Student Eligibility: Alternative, Collaborative, Detached or other Non-Traditional Educational Programs.**

- a. Read the rule to verify the three bulleted items are met.
- b. White Book of Forms – page 14 – Complete all required information.
- c. White Book of Forms – page 15 – Retype the sample letter updating everything in ( ) with the specific information (i.e. your school, student's name, etc.). Signatures of both school's required.

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