



MONTANA HIGH SCHOOL ASSOCIATION
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ELIGIBILITY ASSESSMENT FOR FINE ARTS & SPIRIT

Eligibility Quick Check Music and Speech

Is a student eligible for music and speech activities?

- 1) Is the student enrolled in at least 20 hours per week (4 classes, ½ credit each) and in attendance (receiving instruction and/or supervision in the bricks and mortar) for at least 10 hours per week?
- 2) Is the student academically eligible? Did he/she pass 20 hours of prepared class work the preceding semester? (A first-time ninth grade student is exempt.)
- 3) Has he/she graduated or earned their GED/HiSET? If so, the student is not eligible for any level of contests.

*For Music only, eighth grade students who participate regularly in a curricular ensemble, perform at the district festival and earn a Superior rating would be eligible to participate at State if they meet general eligibility requirements, no parts are doubled in the ensemble, and they comprise one-quarter (1/4) or less of the ensemble members. Permission for eighth grade participation must be requested by the school and authorization granted by the MHSA Executive Director. Requests must be made and approved prior to the District Music Festival.

The semester rule, age rule and transfer rule do not apply to speech and music student participants.

Eligibility Quick Check Spirit

Is a student eligible for spirit (cheerleading)?

- 1) MHSA Eligibility rules do not apply to cheerleaders. Spirit is not a sanctioned sport or activity.
- 2) Safety rules established by NFHS and MHSA do apply. The NFHS Spirit Rule Book defines the national regulations, and the MHSA Handbook contains a section of mandatory regulations for safety and risk management.
- 3) In order for cheerleaders to stunt, the spirit coach must be AACCA certified.