After a student completes the sixth grade and before the student enters the ninth grade, the student may be eligible for a period not to exceed four semesters taken in order of attendance, whether the student participates or not.

**EXCEPTION:** If the student is a “child with a disability” as that term is defined within the Ohio Operating Standards for the Education of Children with Disabilities and Part B of the Federal IDEIA requirements and the student's specific disability was diagnosed contemporaneous with the events which caused the student to be unable to meet the requirements of this bylaw; and whose disability is the primary reason for student’s inability to meet the requirements of this bylaw, that student may be declared eligible by the Commissioner's office if, in the sole discretion of the Commissioner's office, the Commissioner's office determines that:

a) the student does not pose a safety risk to himself/herself or others; and

b) the student does not enjoy any advantages in terms of physical maturity, mental maturity or athletic maturity over other student-athletes; and

c) the student would not likely participate in any meaningful way in any contest or otherwise have any impact on the outcome of any contest in which the student does participate; and

d) there is no evidence of “red-shirting” or other indicia of academic dishonesty.

**COMMENT:**

1. This exception tracks the exception available for the high school student who is severely disabled and would not affect the outcome of any contest.