

**MICHIGAN CITY
COMMISSION ON THE SOCIAL STATUS
OF AFRICAN-AMERICAN MALES**

Mr. Arthur Payne
Chairman

Ms. Joan Ganschow
Vice-Chairman

Secretary

Mrs. Gerry Jones
Treasurer

Mr. Marty Corley

November 17, 2015

Dr. Barbara Eason-Watkins, Superintendent
Michigan City Area Schools
408 South Carroll Avenue
Michigan City, IN 46360

Dear Dr. Eason-Watkins:

As follow-up to the recent Public Hearing on November 9, 2015, regarding participation requirements for students to be eligible to participate in athletic and other school programs, the Michigan City Commission on the Social Status of African-American Males encourages the School Board to maintain the current 1.5 grade point average (GPA).

According to Policy 2430, Corporation-Sponsored Clubs and Activities, there are sufficient guidelines to ensure that students in jeopardy of becoming ineligible, would be able to get tutoring and other support services. Some of the sports programs have admirable study tables and tutoring support already in place. Let us challenge coaches and club leaders to do more to assist students in maintaining their GPA's.

After all, we are in one of the toughest athletic conferences in the state. It would negatively impact the teams' morale and performance if many athletes are deemed ineligible because of stiffer GPA requirements, when they meet the state mandated GPA requirement. There is no logical reason to increase it again and possibly cause many students to become ineligible and deprive them of some opportunities and outlets to accomplish achievements outside of the classroom. Let us encourage our students, not penalize them for their efforts.

Our Commission is committed to helping our youth succeed. We have partnered with several community churches and created community resource centers to help our students excel in school. We are willing to partner with MCAS to help in any way that we can. We invite you to any of our monthly meetings, which are held on the second Wednesday of every month at 12:00pm. We meet in the West Conference Room at Michigan City City Hall, 100 E. Michigan Boulevard.

Sincerely,

Arthur Payne, President

Michigan City Commission on the
Social Status of African American Males

Cc: Mr. Donald Dulaney, Board President