

Statement of Policy

The athletic program will be administered in harmony with the District's statement of philosophy and goals, its policy of non-discrimination on the basis of sex, and all other District policies. Coaches must meet the course requirements established by the Commissioner of Education to be eligible for appointment. The health and safety of student athletes will be of paramount concern in conducting the athletic program. In accordance with the New York State Public High School Athletic Association (NYSPHSAA) guidelines as well as the NYS Concussion Management Awareness Act of 2011, the District will adhere to the board approved Concussion Management Plan. District athletic programs should provide opportunities for character and athletic skill development and prepare student athletes for fair and instructive competition. Any 7th or 8th grade student wishing to play on a high school level team must follow the NYS Athletic Placement Process in accordance with the NYSPHSAA (as defined in AR 5280).

A program of athletic competition will be conducted in compliance with the Regulations of the Commissioner of Education and the policies, codes, and standards of New York State Public High School Athletic Association (NYSPHSAA) and the District. District athletic teams will compete within the Suburban Scholastic Council League and will be subject to the rules of competition established by that league. Independent competition will be arranged where competition is not available within the Suburban Council (i.e. football). District teams may participate in sectional competition when they are eligible, and sectional champions may participate in state intersectional competition.

Individual athletes or teams may compete outside the geographical boundaries of Section 2 only with the permission of the Board of Education upon the recommendation of the Superintendent of Schools.

Student eligibility for participation on interscholastic teams shall include:

1. authorization by the school physician;
2. parent or guardian signature on Health Update form (and TBI Impact Testing, when necessary). All parents will be provided with information on mild traumatic brain injury (TBI) including a link to the State Education Department's web page on TBI); and
3. Permission of the Building Principal based on established rules and various league and State Education Department regulations.

An arrangement for adequate insurance coverage for the travel in question must accompany each request for Board of Education authorization of special athletic competition.

The Board of Education does not expect the athletic program to assign a priority to the development of professionally-skilled athletes, nor will win/loss records be a primary concern in the evaluation of coaching performance.

Interscholastic athletics for boys and girls is an integral and desirable part of the District's secondary school educational program. Individual and team sports shall be based upon comprehensive physical education instruction and intramural activities, seeking broad participation from all eligible secondary students. Parity in the number and kind of sports activities for girls and boys is a clear objective of the District.

## **ELIGIBILITY FOR INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETICS**

Students properly enrolled in the District's secondary schools may participate in interscholastic athletic competition sponsored by the District under the following guidelines:

1. Subdivision (e) of Section 135.4 of the Regulations of the Commissioner of Education will serve as the basic guideline for administering the District's interscholastic athletic program including its student eligibility standards.
2. Girls may participate on the same team with boys in interscholastic competition, and boys with girls, in compliance with the Regulations of the Commissioner of Education, eligibility standards of the NYSPHSAA, and Federal Title IX regulations.

Reviewed January 2011

Renumbered from P5290 – September 2015

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