No Cut Policy: Interscholastic Athletics

Presented By:
Bill Modderno
Peter Daly
Sylvia Egal
Nick Bernice
Tom Murphy
Fidelis Okorofor
Jenny Valentine

July 2005

Policy Proposal
Policy Statement

The Board of Education recognizes the value of a program of athletic competition for both boys and girls as an integral part of the total school experience.

Participation in athletics aids in the development of character traits known to promote academic success.

It shall be the policy of the District that no eligible student who wishes to participate in a sport shall be denied that opportunity.

Our Vision

• Student Achievement includes achievement for the whole child:
  – Development of character and values such as integrity, responsibility, courtesy, patriotism and work ethic
  – Sound physical development and optimal health
  – Understanding and valuing diversity in society
Interscholastic Athletics Defined

Interscholastic athletics includes all District-sponsored practice sessions and competitive contests, games, events, and exhibitions against other schools and school districts.

Board Support

The BOE is committed to provide planning and funding to support the program.

“Expanding co-curricular activities may also be the cheapest means of improving academic performances as well as of instilling socially acceptable values and norms of conduct in young people.” – (Pressley & Whitley, 1996)
Primary Goal

- Increase student achievement
  - Increase student self-esteem
  - Extend the structured school day
  - Increase opportunities for students
  - Encourage participation

“Adolescents who participated in extra-curricular activities reported higher grades, more positive attitudes toward schools, and higher academic aspirations” – (Darling, et.al. 2005)

Plan for Implementation

The responsibility for the development of the implementation plan of this policy falls to:
- The Superintendent
  - The District building leadership
  - The Athletic Director
  - Teaching and Coaching Staff
  - Community members
Key Items in the Report

• Feedback will include:
  Survey data from students and parents
  – Community input
  – Participation
  – Staffing
  – Costs

• The next five slides detail the expectations of the Superintendent once the policy is implemented.

Measure Impact on Student Achievement

The Superintendent will:

• Collect student/athlete data:
  – GPA
  – Standardized test scores
  – Detention / suspension rate
  – Attendance

• Report and make recommendations based on the data

“Participation in athletics has a positive influence on adolescents’ academic outcomes.” – (Videon 2002)
Increase Student Self-Esteem

The Superintendent will:
• Gather feedback from fall, winter, and spring athletes
• Monitor changes in student self-esteem
• Report findings to the BOE

“Students who are active in sports tend to be more confident about their academic ability.” – (Linder, 2000)

Extend the Structured School Day

The Superintendent will:
• Provide ample transportation
• Ensure supervision and staffing
• Ensure resources are available for the activities

“…participation in extracurricular activities will enhance students’ bonds to their school as an institution, increase social control over the individuals involved, and increase positive network ties to both teachers and to students.” – (Darling, et.al., 2005)
Increase Opportunities for Students

The Superintendent will:

• Explore the current sports offerings for possible opportunities for realignment; alter and/or add as necessary
• Report to the BOE the findings and recommendations for implementation

“Promoting Achievement in School through Sports students’ grades and attendance have improved…show greater confidence, personal initiative and self-discipline” -(Griffin, 1992)

Encourage Participation

The Superintendent will:

• Communicate the policy to the entire educational community
• Report to the Board of Education the participation totals and recommendations on how the board can help meet the goal for each season
• Update the BOE on status of the plan, including any roadblocks encountered

“Study revealed that high-participation athletes (at least one sport each year of high school) outperformed low-participant athletes in class rank, overall GPA, and Math GPA.” -(Stegman & Stephens, 2000)
Conclusion

The Board of Education recognizes that a program of athletic competition can be an integral part of the total school experience for all students.

Participation in interscholastic athletics can aid in the development of important character traits known to promote academic success.

For this reason the District will provide all eligible students who seek to participate in interscholastic athletics at the non-varsity level the opportunity to do so.