

## ATHLETIC PLACEMENT PROCESS

The District encourages students to participate in interscholastic athletics for which they are suited, appropriate to their physiological maturity, physical fitness, and skills in relationship to other members on those teams, as well as their psychological and emotional maturity. In the vast majority of circumstances, a high school student-athlete shall be placed on a high school team (varsity or junior varsity) and a middle school student-athlete shall be placed on a middle school interscholastic team. However, the Board recognizes that there are certain circumstances in which it may be appropriate for a middle school student-athlete to be placed on a high school interscholastic team. The Board reserves the right to make the final determination in the Athletic Placement Process.

### Participation of Middle School Students on High School Interscholastic Teams

In exceptional circumstances, a middle school student-athlete may be so physically, athletically, socially and emotionally advanced that he or she would most appropriately be placed on a high school interscholastic team. The Athletic Placement Process allows eighth grade students to participate in high school athletics. It is designed so that only very talented, highly skilled and academically sound students will be considered for advancement. Only in such circumstances shall a middle school student-athlete be permitted to “play up” to a high school interscholastic team. Each student-athlete shall be considered individually for this option, and a student-athlete shall not be considered for “playing up” for the purpose of ensuring a sufficient number of members of a high school team or because of the desires of a student or a member of the coaching staff that the student be added to a high school team.

Students in the eighth grade shall be permitted to be evaluated through the APP for all non-contact sports [bowling, cross-country, golf, gymnastics, swimming & diving, tennis, track & field, and badminton]; and contact sports [basketball, baseball, field hockey, lacrosse, soccer, football, softball, volleyball, competitive cheerleading, and wrestling].

No eighth grade student will be permitted to “play up” unless he or she has successfully completed all medical, physical, and athletic testing set forth in the Athletic Placement Process. Prior to the administration of such medical, physical and athletic testing to a student, the District shall determine that the student is a suitable candidate for consideration for “playing up,” in accordance with the process and procedure established by the Superintendent of Schools, which may be amended or modified from time to time.

The determination of whether an eighth grade student-athlete shall be permitted to participate on a high school interscholastic team shall be made in accordance with the Athletic Placement Process, this policy, and the process and procedures established by the Superintendent of Schools in accordance with this policy. The District’s decision that a middle school student-athlete shall not be permitted to “play up” shall be final.

The evaluation process will consist of the following steps:

1. The parent/guardian must submit written permission for the child to participate in the evaluation process to the Director of Athletics.
2. The middle school principal, after consultation with guidance counselor/teachers, must certify that the student possesses appropriate social and emotional maturity and that his/her academic performance is up to potential. (The process could end at this step for some students.)
3. The Athletic Director should confirm that the student is suitable for consideration, which includes the likelihood that the student would play in at least 50% of the games.
4. The school physician will determine a student’s physical maturity level, and compare the physical size of the student in relation to that of the students against whom the student wishes to compete. If the student is

determined to have attained the appropriate physical maturity level and comparable physical size for the desired sport and level, the student may proceed with step 5. If the student is determined to **not** have attained an appropriate physical maturity level for the desired sport and level, **the process stops**.

5. The sport coach will rely on past personal observations and may consider input from the student's former coaches to complete the evaluation. If the coach is unfamiliar with the student, the sport coach may wish to observe the student in a physical education class.

6. Physical fitness training must be done by a certified physical education teacher who is **not** a coach of the sport for which the student will be trying out. The President's Physical Fitness Test has been selected as the test for this process, and the student must meet the 85th percentile level for their age in 4 out of 5 test components. For bowling and golf students are not required to complete a physical fitness test.

*Exception to the physical fitness test requirement: Students who desire to try out for bowling or golf teams are not required to complete the physical fitness testing.*

7. The results of the three evaluations will be sent to the director of physical education/athletics. **Only students who pass all parts of the Athletic Placement Process are permitted to try out.**

**8. Except for bowling and golf**, students are allowed to try out for the sport and level requested or students must return to the modified level of competition.

**Bowling:** Any eighth grade student may be given the opportunity to try out for a junior varsity or varsity bowling team. At the completion of the try-out sessions, which must include nine games bowled over a three-day period, if the individual's bowling average puts him/her in the top eight of your bowlers, he/she is eligible for the team.

**Golf:** Any eighth grade student may be given the opportunity to try out for a junior varsity or varsity golf team. At the completion of the tryout sessions, which must include 18 holes golfed over a three-day period (the first three days of the individual's tryout when the course is accessible), if the individual's golf average puts him/her in the top 8 of your golfers, he/she is eligible for the team.

9. The Athletic Director must maintain all records of students who have successfully completed the APP. Items to be kept in the student's file are: Parent/Guardian Permission and Result letters; Maturity Evaluation and Medical Director Form; Physical Fitness results; Coach's Sport Skill Evaluation.

10. The District will notify Section XI and keep a permanent file for each student who qualifies in the director's office.

Adoption date: February 4, 2009

Revised: August 26, 2015