

INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETICS

Interscholastic athletics 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. Lifetime or carry-over sports are to be particularly encouraged and supported. Parity in the number and kind of sports activities in accordance with Title IX of the Federal Education Amendments of 1972 is a clear objective of the District.

Student eligibility for participation on interscholastic teams shall include:

1. medical clearance by a licensed physician and final authorization by the District Physician
2. written parent or guardian consent (the written consent will contain information for parents on mild traumatic brain injury (TBI) and will provide a link to the State Education Department's web page on TBI.

Although the district will take reasonable care to protect student athletes, students may still sustain injuries. In order to most effectively ensure student safety, open communication between students, parents and coaches about the child's medical condition is critical. Coaches, and other appropriate staff, will receive guidance and training regarding recognition of injury and removal of the student athlete from play in the event of injury. Parents and/or students are expected to report injuries so that student health can be protected.

In the case of a suspected or actual head injury, a student must be removed from play immediately. In order to resume participation following any injury, including head injury, the student needs to receive medical clearance. The Superintendent, in consultation with appropriate District staff, including the District physician, will adhere to existing regulations and procedures to guide the process of return to play.

In accordance with *Policy 5600 Concussion Management*, the Board authorizes the creation of a Concussion Management Team (CMT) in each school. The CMT may consist of the athletic director, a school nurse, the District Physician, a coach of an interscholastic team, an athletic trainer, and other appropriate personnel designated by the school or District. The CMT is charged with overseeing compliance with state training requirements, developing guidelines for use by coaches and physical education teachers, and developing information for distribution to parents and students.

The Board of Education will permit students in grades 11 and 12 to receive credit towards high school graduation equivalent to physical education for participation in interscholastic athletics. In accordance with existing Regulations of the New York State Commissioner of Education, students in grade 10 – 12 who participate in out-of-school athletic activities that have been approved by the building physical education staff and administration may also receive credit towards high school graduation equivalent to physical education. In both instances, such credit will, in addition to other requirements, be contingent upon proven cardiovascular and physical fitness and competency in lifetime or carry-over sports. The Director of Athletics, Recreation and Physical Education shall develop standards for such fitness and competency.