

Davis School District Policy and Procedures

Subject: 5S-201 Ninth Grade Student Participation in High School Athletics
Index: Student Services – *Extracurricular Participation*
DRAFT: September 4, 2018

1. PURPOSE AND PHILOSOPHY

The Board of Education of Davis School District (Board) believes that all instructional programs and extracurricular activities associated with the schools should be conducted according to the highest standards of academic excellence. While there is no constitutional right to participate in high school sports or other extracurricular activities, the Board recognizes the importance of athletic programs in enhancing the school experience for students, and the quality of life for parents and citizens in Davis County. Therefore, it is the Board's purpose to have policies and procedures governing participation in high school athletics that are equitable and protective of the best interests of all students. The junior high athletic program is intended to give many opportunities for development of skill and competition among students of comparable skill and age. The Board believes that ninth grade students should participate in athletics at the junior high school level. There may be occasion where a ninth grade student may desire to participate in a sport at the high school level. The Board strongly encourages high school coaches and junior high coaches to work collaboratively, along with parents of student athletics, in making this important decision in a young person's development.

2. POLICY

Ninth grade student athletes may try out for and participate at the high school in all levels of athletic competition as outlined in this policy.

2.1. Ninth grade student athletes:

2.1.1. Will only be allowed to try out for and participate:

- [a] with the high school to which they would normally be assigned, based on residence, upon completion of the ninth grade; or
- [b] with the high school to which they would be assigned, based on an academic program feeder pattern, upon completion of the ninth grade, provided:
 - (i) the academic program was initiated by the beginning of the third grade year;
 - (ii) enrollment in that academic program continued uninterrupted into the ninth grade; and
 - (iii) the student demonstrates a continued commitment to the academic program beyond ninth grade.

2.1.2. A ninth grade student who participates in high school athletics:

- [a] shall be deemed to have established Utah High School Activities Association (UHSAA) eligibility in that high school. If the student enrolls in a different high school for the tenth grade, that enrollment shall be considered a student transfer and shall be subject to UHSAA transfer rules for athletic eligibility.
- [b] must meet all eligibility and academic standards required by the UHSAA, the District, and the school.
- [c] must complete the UHSAA outline *Register My Athlete* form.

2.2. Upon selection as a member of a high school athletic team, and prior to participation in practice of competition, it is the responsibility of the 9th grade student athlete and the student's parent/guardian to:

- 2.2.1. sign and return a written consent form for random drug testing as outlined in District Policy [5S-204 Random Drug Testing for Students Participating in](#)

2.2.2. [Extracurricular Activities](#); and
pay applicable high school athletic fees, subject to fee waivers for eligible students according to District policy [6F-101 School Fees, Fee Waivers, and Provisions in Lieu of Fee Waivers](#).

2.3. A ninth grade student athlete's parent/guardian shall be responsible for providing transportation for the student to the high school for practices, home events, and the bus departure site for away games.

2.4. If the student is not selected for the high school team, the student may still participate in athletics on junior high level.

3. EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS

3.1. A ninth grade student athlete must remain academically eligible to continue participation in high school athletics.

3.2. A ninth grade student athlete is prohibited from leaving the junior high early for practices; but may be permitted to leave the junior high, no more than one class period for home games, and a time reasonably necessary to transport the student to the bus departure site for away games.

3.3. Upon parental request, the junior high may modify a ninth grade student athlete's class schedule to achieve an appropriate route to student success consistent with a written plan for college and career readiness that maintains the integrity and rigor expected for high school graduation.

RELATED POLICIES

[4I-001 Individual Learning Plan and Plan for College and Career](#)

[5S-200 Minimum Standards of Eligibility for Extracurricular Participation](#)

[5S-204 Random Drug Testing for Students Participating in Extracurricular Activities](#)

[6F-101 School Fees, Fee Waivers and Provisions in Lieu of Fee Waivers](#)

DOCUMENT HISTORY:

Adopted: June 17, 1997

Revised: July 13, 1999 - Technical changes.

Revised: June 17, 2003 – Made changes in level at which 9th grade students may compete in high school sports by adding Sports Offered at Junior High School Level and Sports Not Offered at Junior High School Level.

Revised: October 21, 2003 – Technical change to clarify establishment of UHSAA eligibility.

Revised: September 1, 2009 – No content change, renumbered from 5S-701 to 5S-201 with reorganization of Policy Table of Contents. **Revised:** March 6, 2012 - Allows employees who wish to have their child attend the school of their choice, as provided for in both negotiated agreements, their 9th grade student may play-up at the high school they will be attending, not their resident school. Will establish UHSAA eligibility in that high school.

Revised: May 7, 2013 – Eliminated employee's student exception. Students may only play up at their school of residence.

Revised: February 6, 2018 effective June 1, 2018 – Revision made to policy to allow ninth grade student to play at his/her high school of resident in any sport at all levels of competition, allowing for more student choice.

Revised: September 4, 2018 - Modified eligibility by allowing a student to play sports with the high school to which they would be assigned, based on an academic program feeder pattern.