

Davis School District Policy and Procedures

Subject: 5S-201 Ninth- Grade Student Participation in UHSAA Sports or Activities

Index: Student Services – *Extracurricular Participation*

Revised: October 5, 2021, with an effective date of June 1, 2022

Effective for UHSAA sports and activities beginning with the 2022-23 school year.

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 extracurricular activities, the Board recognizes the importance of extracurricular activities 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 that are equitable and protective of the best interests of all students. Junior high sports and activities are 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 at the junior high school level. There may be occasion where a ninth-grade student may desire to participate in an Utah High School Activities Association (UHSAA) sanctioned sport or activity at the high school level. The Board strongly encourages high school coaches/advisors and junior high coaches/advisors to work collaboratively with parents in making this important decision in a young person's development. For all sports and activities, the Board's position is that coaches and advisors are prohibited from recruiting students who are not enrolled in the school.

2. POLICY

2.1. Ninth-grade students enrolled and attending a District junior high, may try out for and participate in UHSAA sponsored sports or activities:

2.1.1 with the high school to which they would normally be assigned, based on residence, upon completion of the ninth grade; or

2.1.2 with the high school to which they received a high school 9-12 open enrollment permit to attend, upon completion of the ninth grade. Students may apply for a permit during the open enrollment period of the student's eighth grade year.

2.2. A ninth-grade student who participates in any UHSAA sport or activity in a District high school:

2.2.1. must meet all eligibility and academic standards required by the UHSAA, the District, and the school; and

2.2.2. shall be deemed to have established UHSAA eligibility in that high school. If the student enrolls in a different high school, including the boundary school, for the tenth grade, that enrollment shall be considered a student transfer and shall be subject to UHSAA transfer rules for eligibility.

2.3. If a ninth-grade student tries out but does not make the high school team, they have not established eligibility at that high school, but they have used a sport season. A ninth-grade student that does not make the high school team may try out for a junior high team if they meet District eligibility requirements.

2.4. A ninth-grade student who has participated at the junior high level, is not eligible to participate at the high school level in the same sport or activity in the same school year.

- 2.5. If applicable, upon selection as a member of a high school sport or activity, and prior to participation in practice or competition, it is the responsibility of the ninth-grade student and the student's parent to:
 - 2.5.1. complete the UHSAA outline *Register My Athlete* form;
 - 2.5.2. 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 Extracurricular Activities](#); and
 - 2.5.3. pay applicable high school 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](#).
- 2.6. A ninth-grade student parent shall be responsible for providing transportation to practices, home events, and the bus departure site for away events.

3. EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS

- 3.1. A ninth-grade student must remain academically eligible to continue participation in any sport or activity.
- 3.2. A ninth-grade student may not leave the junior high early for practices but may leave the junior high, missing minimal class time, to reasonably arrive in time for games or competitions.
- 3.3. Upon parental request, the junior high may modify a ninth-grade student'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-001 Enrollment Options for Students](#)

[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.

Revised: October 5, 2021 - Effective for UHSAA sports and activities beginning with the 2022-23 school year. Allow a 9th grade student to participation in any UHSAA sponsored sport or activity - in the high school they would normally be assigned, or with the high school to which they have received a high school 9-12 open enrollment permit – upon completion of the ninth grade.