West Seneca Central School District

Administrative Office, 1445 Center Road, West Seneca, New York 14224-4098
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Dr. Lisa Krueger
Superintendent of Schools

Marisa Fallacaro-Dougherty
Director of Health/Physical Education & Athletics

Dear Parent/Guardian:

New York State Education Department (NYSED) regulations permit school districts to implement the Athletic Placement Process (APP) to determine whether a middle school student may safely compete at the high school level in interscholastic athletics. The purpose of the APP is to help ensure that students participate at a level of competition that is safe, appropriate, and consistent with their demonstrated readiness.

Coach recommendation and your written permission is required before the Athletic Placement Process may begin.The Athletic Placement Process includes a comprehensive review of your child's eligibility and readiness for participation. This review includes verification of a current health examination and medical clearance in accordance with NYSED regulations and an evaluation conducted during the team selection process. The evaluation is designed to determine whether the student demonstrates the sport-specific skills, knowledge of the sport, physical readiness, and personal and social responsibility necessary to participate safely and successfully at the requested level of competition.

If your child successfully completes the Athletic Placement Process and is selected for the team, they will be permitted to participate at the approved level of competition. It is important for you and your child to understand that, once the requirements are met and if he/she is accepted as a member of the team, he/she cannot return to a lower-level team (modified) in that sport in that season.

Under normal circumstances, a student is eligible for senior high school athletic competition in a sport for four consecutive seasons beginning with entry into ninth grade. Students approved through the Athletic Placement Process may be eligible for extended participation as permitted by NYSED regulations, including:

- Participation during **five consecutive seasons** in the approved sport after entry into **eighth grade**; or
- Participation during **six consecutive seasons** in the approved sport after entry into **seventh grade**.

Participation through the Athletic Placement Process does not guarantee placement on a team. It permits the student to participate in the team selection process only. Final team selection remains the responsibility of the coach.

Because participation at a higher level may involve competing with older students, parents/guardians should carefully consider the academic, social, emotional, and athletic expectations associated with participation at that level. Therefore, it is important to take into account your child’s ability to handle the additional demands.

Please feel free to contact me regarding this program or to discuss any aspect of your child’s athletic placement. If you agree to allow your child’s participation in this program, please sign and return the parental permission form to my office.

Sincerely,

Marisa Fallacaro-Dougherty

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NYS Athletic Placement Process Request

I am submitting a request to begin the Athletic Placement Process for the following student-athlete:

Name: _____ M ☐ F ☐

School: _____ Grade: 7 ☐ 8 ☐

Sport: _____ Level of Play: JV ☐ Varsity ☐

Reason for request: _____

_____

_____

Please List Prior Playing Experience: _____

_____

_____

_____

I have read and understand the letter regarding this process and I understand the purpose and eligibility implications of the Athletic Placement Process.

My son/daughter (Name) _____has my permission to undergo the evaluation process and to participate in this program. I understand that passing the evaluation process does not guarantee my child a position on a team, but only permits them to try out.

_____ _____ _____
Parent/Guardian Name (Print) Parent/Guardian (Signature) Date

Address _____

Phone _____ e-mail address: _____

updated 08/3/2026