

POLICY

2005/2015 Athletic Placement Process for Interscholastic Athletes 7423
1 of 2

Students

Board Approval:

SUBJECT: Athletic Placement Process (APP) for Interscholastic Athletics

PURPOSE:

Students do not mature at the same rate and there can be tremendous developmental differences between students of the same age. The APP is a process for evaluating students who are being considered to participate in sports at higher levels, consistent with their physical and emotional maturity, size, fitness level, and skills compared to other students at that level rather than age and grade alone.

Normally, a student is eligible for senior high athletic competition in a sport during each of four consecutive seasons, beginning with entry into the ninth grade. However, by satisfying the requirements of the APP, a student may receive extended eligibility that permits:

1. Participation during five consecutive seasons in the approved sport, after entry into the eighth grade; or
2. Participation during six consecutive seasons in the approved sport, after entry into the seventh grade.

The APP is not to be used to fill positions on teams, provide additional experience, provide an opportunity for middle school students when no modified program is offered, or to reward a student. Instead, it is aimed at the few, select students who can benefit from such placement because of their level of readiness.

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS:

If students successfully complete the APP, the Board will allow:

1. Grade 8 students to compete at the junior varsity level. To compete at the varsity level, grade 8 students must successfully complete the APP and receive Superintendent approval.
2. Grade 7 students to compete at the junior varsity level with Superintendent approval. To compete at the varsity level, grade 7 students must successfully complete the APP, present to the Board of Education, and receive Superintendent and Board of Education approval.

THE ATHLETIC PLACEMENT PROCESS REQUIREMENTS:

1. **Referral:** All referrals must be directed to the Athletic Director. The student must be academically, socially, emotionally, and physically ready to proceed as determined by the personnel involved in the process.
2. **Parent/guardian consent:** Written parent/guardian permission must be granted before any evaluation may begin.
3. **Approval by the APP Committee:** The APP Committee will be made up of the Athletic Director (convenes the committee), principal, guidance counselor, physical education teacher/previous coach, and nurse. The committee will review the following information:

- Academic readiness: Student must be in good academic standing with passing grades in all areas.
 - Social and emotional readiness: Student must have developed and maintained positive relationships with teachers and peers, evidenced emotional maturity in order to positively interact with older students, and have no major or repetitive discipline referrals.
 - Physical Readiness: Student must have no unexcused absences, no more than 10 excused absences within a year, and be in good physical/mental health.
4. **Medical clearance:** Physical maturity will be determined by the District medical director/doctor in accordance with State Education Department guidelines. The medical director/doctor will take into account the height, weight, muscle mass, and Tanner rating of the student compared to other athletes he or she would compete against.
 5. **Sport skill evaluation:** The coach may rely on past personal observations, information from former coaches, or his/her own observations of the student in a physical education class or other settings.
 6. **Physical fitness test:** The Athletic Director or designee (designee must be a physical education teacher and may not be the student's coach) will administer the President's Physical Fitness Test. The student must meet the 85th percentile level for their age in four out of five parts. Students trying out for junior varsity or varsity golf or bowling are exempt from the physical fitness test.
 7. **Qualified determination:** The Athletic Director will evaluate the medical, sport skill evaluation, and physical fitness test results. Students who pass all APP components will then be eligible to try out for the sport and level requested. Any required approval from the Superintendent or Board of Education should be completed before the student participates in try outs for the junior varsity or varsity sport.
 8. **Presentation of student athlete's requests (if required):**
 - Superintendent (grade 8 varsity and grade 7 junior varsity)
 - Superintendent and Board of Education (grade 7 varsity)
 9. **Try Outs:** The student is allowed to try out for the sport and level requested. If the student does not make the team, the student must return to modified level of competition.
 10. **Notifications:** After the try-out period has been completed, a notification list of scores of all athletes who have successfully completed the process and have been approved through the APP must be sent to:
 - The Physical Education and/or Athletic Director of competitor schools
 - Athletic governing board or section office
 11. **Records:** The Athletic Director must maintain all records of students who have successfully completed the APP. Items to be kept in the student file are: Parent/Guardian Permission; APP Committee Results; Maturity Evaluation and Medical Director/Doctor's Form; Coach's Sport Skill Evaluation; Physical Fitness Results; and notice of Parent Notification.

Reviewed and revised 7/15

*Education Law Sections 310, 3208-a, 4401
8 NYCRR Sections 135.4(c)(7)(ii)(a)(4), 135.4(d)*