



CHSAA 8th Grade Parent(s) “FYI” about HS Participation

Greetings from the Colorado High School Activities Association (CHSAA)! Our mission is to govern participation and competition in an equitable, safe, and sportsmanlike manner so that the experience of the student-athlete, school community and all relative support systems are education centered and are truly an extension of the classroom.

The Colorado High School Activities Association strives to represent and promote a diverse, inclusive, and equitable organization, where all employees, volunteers, partners, and program participants – whatever their gender, race, ethnicity, national origin, age, sexual orientation or identity, education or disability – feel valued, respected, and heard. We are committed to modeling diversity and inclusion for our membership and the communities we serve.

CHSAA is a voluntary member organization made up of 365 public and private schools that serve over 240,000 students who participate in more than 32 sanctioned athletic and activity programs. Our association is governed by a Constitution and Bylaws, guiding documents that are continually evaluated, edited and voted upon by a Board of Directors and a Legislative Council; both of which are made up of elected or appointed representatives from our member schools, local school boards, the Colorado State Legislature and various other school and business entities from across the entire State. The Commissioner and all CHSAA administrators are held accountable to the Board of Directors and the membership and are ultimately responsible for applying and upholding the membership's bylaws and constitutional procedures.

Student participation in CHSAA sanctioned programs is at an all-time high. Numerous studies and data support that students who participate in educationally based activities have higher grade point averages, feel more connected to the new environment (thus experiencing less social and emotional anxiety), engage in less risky behaviors, and begin cultivating personal traits around character, integrity, and teamwork.

The CHSAA Administrative team would like to provide some insights and information that can assist you as your student enters the exciting world of high school Activities and Athletics. Participation in co-curricular activities is one of the best ways your student can get involved, be connected, and develop critical life skills that will serve them well into adulthood!

Colorado is a “choice” state when it comes to enrolling in high school. What does that mean for athletics? An 8th grader can pursue enrollment in any high school with no athletic penalties upon first entry. Please note that some school districts have specific enrollment policies that may restrict your son's/daughter's attendance in those districts. Please contact the school district's registrar's office or athletic/activity director for more detailed information.

Your student's initial choice into high school is an important one and will be based on multiple factors, the most important of which should be academic programming. Please note, that once your son/daughter practices, tries-out, scrimmages, and/or competes at your high school of choice, they have then established their “eligibility” at that high school. Please be aware that should your student decide to transfer to a different high school, CHSAA bylaws could restrict participation at the varsity level based on the circumstances of the transfer.

Hopefully these informational items will assist you as your student looks forward to the incredible opportunities for participation that await them. We **strongly** recommend that you contact your future high school's athletic/activity director who will be able to provide more specific and detailed information regarding participation requirements and procedures.

On behalf of our 365-member school association, Board of Directors and the entire CHSAA staff, we look forward to supporting your child's experience with participation in CHSAA Athletics and Activities!

Sincerely,

Michael Krueger, Ed.S., CMAA
CHSAA Commissioner