

FREDERICK COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS	Reg. No. 400-92
Subject: PHYSICAL EDUCATION AND ATHLETIC PROGRAMS FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES	Date of Issue: 4/7/10
Preparing Office: Office of the Superintendent	Amended:

- I. Policy 402
(See also COMAR 13A.06.03)
- II. Procedures
The following procedures promote and protect the inclusion of students with disabilities into physical education and athletic programs.
 - A. Definitions
 1. **Adapted Physical Education Program** – A physical education curricular program developed for a student with a disability.
 2. **Corollary Athletic Program** – An athletic program that is not governed by the requirements of the Maryland Public Secondary Schools Athletic Association (MPSSAA) and that is specifically designed to combine groups of students with and without disabilities together in physical activity.
 3. **Interscholastic Athletic Program** – An athletic program that is governed by the requirements of the MPSSAA detailed in COMAR 13A.06.03.
 4. **Mainstream Physical Education** – A curricular program in physical education that is aligned to the Maryland state curriculum.
 - B. Physical Education
 1. All students with disabilities shall have an equal opportunity to participate in mainstream physical education.
 2. Frederick County Public Schools shall provide adapted physical education for students as required by individualized education programs (IEPs) and 504 plans.
 - C. Interscholastic Athletics
 1. Student Eligibility Determination
 - a. All students who meet state and local eligibility criteria have an equal opportunity to try out for the mainstream interscholastic athletic program. Among those criteria are enrolled student status, age, academic eligibility, attendance eligibility, conduct eligibility, medical approval, and parent permission.

- b. Students with disabilities who meet the eligibility requirements shall not be excluded from the tryout unless inclusion presents an objective safety risk to the student or others based on an individualized assessment of the student or fundamentally alters the nature of the mainstream athletic program.
 - c. During the tryout, a student with disabilities shall be allowed to use modifications or aids he/she typically uses to play the sport, including but not limited to racing wheelchairs, artificial limbs, interpreters for deaf students, or special equipment. A student shall not be excluded from trying out based on needing modifications or aids.
 - d. The head coach determines the final roster for his/her team. That determination is made as a result of skill testing, competitive demeanor, and the student's ability to function within a team environment.
2. Pathway-to-Play Committee
- a. Prior to the start of each athletic season, the school system shall convene a Pathway-to-Play Committee to provide, to the fullest extent possible, opportunities for disabled students and guidance for coaches. The committee shall include the following individuals:
 - 1) Supervisor of Athletics
 - 2) School Athletic Director
 - d) Adapted Physical Education Teacher
 - 4) Special Education Representative
 - 5) School-Based Administrator
 - b. A student with an IEP or 504 plan who wishes to participate in the mainstream interscholastic athletic program will be referred to the Pathway-to-Play Committee which will consider the eligibility of each student on a case-by-case basis. The committee shall conduct a review of the student and the sport, consult with the Maryland Public Secondary Schools Athletic Association (MPSSAA) as needed and determine which, if any, accommodations or modifications are necessary to enable the individual student's participation.
 - c. To make its decision, the committee shall apply the following four points to determine if the student's accommodations or modifications:
 - 1) Fundamentally alter the sport.
 - 2) Provide a competitive advantage to the student.
 - 3) Competitively disadvantage other participants.
 - 4) Significantly increase the risk of injury for the student or other athletes.
 - d. The Pathway-to-Play Committee shall render one of the following determinations for each student referred:
 - 1) The student is able to participate in the interscholastic athletic program without accommodations or modifications.

- 2) The student is able to participate in the interscholastic athletic program with allowable accommodations or modifications.
- 3) The student is unable to participate in individual or team sports because of the necessary accommodations. The student shall be offered the opportunity to participate in the corollary athletic program.

D. Corollary Athletic Program

1. Frederick County Public Schools shall offer a Corollary Athletic Program in each of the fall, winter, and spring seasons. The dates of these seasons do not need to match the dates prescribed in Maryland law. The sport season for the Corollary Athletic Program shall be limited to a maximum of twelve (12) consecutive weeks.
2. The Corollary Athletic Program shall include co-ed teams comprised of disabled and non-disabled students who meet eligibility requirements. Non-disabled students shall not compromise more than 50% of the team.
3. Frederick County Public Schools shall provide:
 - a. Rules, guidelines, and modifications for each activity or sport to ensure greater student participation and success within the program.
 - b. Corollary athletic program coaches.
 - c. Team uniforms and game equipment.
 - d. Transportation for teams to travel in order to compete if appropriate.
4. Student must meet the following criteria in order to be eligible to participate in the corollary athletic program. Students must:
 - a. Be secondary school students in grades 9 – 12.
 - b. Be officially registered and attend a Frederick County Public School.
 - c. Meet all high school eligibility requirements regarding academics, attendance, and conduct.
 - d. Submit a parent/guardian permission form for participation.
 - e. Submit a medical approval form.
 - f. Be making satisfactory progress toward graduation with a Maryland High School Diploma or school completion with a Maryland High School Certificate of Program Completion.

- g. Have not participated on an interscholastic athletic team in the same sport. If a student acquires a disability during his/her years of participation in interscholastic sports, an exception may be made.
- h. Make payment of the corollary athletic program fee.

E. Complaints

- 1. Parents, guardians, or legal representatives of students with disabilities may file a written complaint regarding an alleged violation of this regulation with the deputy superintendent who serves as the Superintendent's designee.
- 2. The written complaint shall:
 - a. State the alleged violation.
 - b. Contain a brief statement of facts necessary to understand the complaint.
 - c. Contain a brief statement of relief sought.
 - d. Be filed within 30 days of the discovery of the alleged violation.
- 3. The appeals process as set forth in Board Policy 105 "Appeal and Hearing Procedures" shall govern the processing of the complaint.

Approved:

original signed by

Linda D. Burgee
Superintendent