

October 26, 2016

**RESOLUTION TO ESTABLISH THE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL SPORTS PROGRAM
AT CHICAGO PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

WHEREAS, developing the values, skills and abilities learned from participation in athletics - sportsmanship, teamwork, problem-solving, self-confidence, accountability - is an essential component of an individual's success during life and the mission of Chicago Public Schools ("CPS"); and

WHEREAS, the Board of Education of the City of Chicago (the "Board") dedicates itself to establishing and maintaining the highest standards of good sportsmanship, fair play and citizenship so that students' participation in athletics enriches their educational experience; and

WHEREAS, the Board seeks to provide as many students as possible the opportunity to benefit from participation in individual and/or team sports; and

WHEREAS, historically, CPS elementary schools have not been able to accommodate all students who express interest in participating in afterschool athletics, and the many benefits of youth sports have only been afforded to a small number of the highest performing student-athletes.

NOW, THEREFORE, Be It and It is Hereby Resolved by the Board as follows:

1. The Board establishes the Elementary School Sports Program, a district-wide interscholastic athletics program for CPS elementary school students in grades five (5) through eight (8).
2. The Chief Executive Officer is authorized to take all actions consistent with this Resolution, the Chicago Public Schools Athletics Constitution and Bylaws, and other Board Rules and Policies to implement, administer and operate the Elementary School Sports Program.
3. The Chief Executive Officer is authorized to pursue public-private partnerships, working with CPS alumni, volunteers, sister agencies, sports organizations, professional sports teams, the corporate community and/or other interested individuals or organizations, to facilitate the implementation, administration and operation of the Elementary School Sports Program.
4. CPS will provide all fifth (5th) through eighth (8th) grade students who express an interest in participation in a sport the opportunity to participate in the sport under the supervision of a committed coach who will promote an inclusive athletics culture.

5. Elementary sports coaches will ensure minimum playing time, so each participating student has the opportunity to practice and play during contests.

6. The Chief Executive Officer is authorized to establish conferences organized around CPS elementary schools and high schools.

7. Participating high schools will host elementary contests in high school facilities, allowing for the development of stronger community relationships between high school and elementary school employees, students, community members and other stakeholders.

8. The Elementary School Sports Program will provide additional engagement and development opportunities for high school student volunteers and other non-student volunteers by allowing volunteers to perform contest duties, such as scorekeeping, scoreboard operation and timekeeping.

9. When possible, contests will occur on weekends at high school facilities and practices will occur on weekdays at elementary schools. Partners will provide supplemental facilities to ensure there are enough locations for contests and practices.

10. The principals of participating elementary schools must identify a school representative to be responsible for assisting with program activities, including but not limited to overseeing student registration and tracking participation.

11. The Elementary School Sports Program shall be the framework for interscholastic athletic league play of sports administered by CPS. Elementary schools that choose not to participate in the Elementary School Sports Program may organize intramural athletics within their schools.

12. The Elementary School Sports Program shall be consistently delivered across the district.