

RSU #16 SCHOOL BOARD	CODE: JJI PAGE: 1
SUBJECT: Philosophy of Athletics	
DATE OF ORIGINAL POLICY: November 2009 REVISION DATE:	
JURISDICTION: RSU #16	

POLICY:

The RSU #16 School Board recognizes the value of athletics as an integral part of the educational program.

The RSU #16 School Board believes that participation in sports provides a significant learning experience and opportunity for personal growth. Learning in sports is closely related to learning in the classroom, supporting the Guiding Principles of Maine’s System of Learning Results. In competition and practice, student athletes learn skills, strategies, relationships, leadership, self-discipline and responsibility. They also learn the importance of setting goals for themselves and the team, and planning how to achieve those goals.

The RSU #16 School Board also believes that participation in sports is related to physical and emotional health and fitness. Sports provide the incentive for developing and maintaining healthy bodies and active minds. Sports promote habits of exercise and good nutrition that can last a lifetime. Participation in sports builds self-confidence and a sense of personal responsibility for making healthy lifestyle choices. Being part of a team also creates a feeling of belonging and offers a supportive network that contributes to emotional well-being.

Based on these beliefs, it is the RSU #16 School Board’s intent to offer students the opportunity to experience developmentally sound athletic programs.

At the high school level, interscholastic athletic programs will be designed to serve the needs of students who have shown that they are developmentally ready for intense competitive experiences. At this level, the purpose of athletic programs is to promote healthy competition, sportsmanship, cooperation, integrity and citizenship. Whenever feasible, junior varsity and freshman programs will be available to students who wish to learn a new sport. The RSU #16 School Board also supports intramural sports as a way to involve students who are not competing in interscholastic activities.

At the middle school level, the school’s athletic programs will be designed to meet the developmental needs of students through appropriate intramural and interscholastic activities, fundamental skills, teamwork, sportsmanship, and health and safety.

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It is the RSU #16 School Board’s intent that the programs promote opportunities for involvement of all team members in practices and play. The RSU #16 School Board supports intramural activities for students not participating in interscholastic activities, or when financial, staffing or other concerns require the school to limit the number of students participating in interscholastic activities.

The RSU #16 School Board will be responsible for approving the school sponsorship of interscholastic athletic programs. The Superintendent/designee shall be responsible for making recommendations concerning the approval of new athletic programs or the modification or elimination of existing programs. The RSU #16 School Board may articulate, through policy, criteria to be considered in decision-making or may delegate the responsibility for developing such criteria to the Superintendent/designee.

Cross Reference: JJIB—Sponsorship and Evaluation of Athletic Programs
JJIBA—Hiring and Evaluation of Coaches
JJIBB—Sportsmanship

SIGNATURE BLOCK:
RSU #16 School Board

Dave Griffith, Chair

DATE

Yvette Murray, Vice Chair

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Annette Annance

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Carlton Beckett

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Susan Callahan

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Norm Davis

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Steve Holbrook

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Chris Woodford

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