



Athletics



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ATHLETICS

The Weston High School Interscholastic Athletics Program is an integral part of the school's total educational program. Interscholastic competition provides students with the opportunity to grow physically, mentally and emotionally as individuals; but also as members of their school and community. Recent analysis in the education media speaks to the importance of school athletics:

While many students get involved in high school athletics for sheer love of the game, there are significant benefits from these extra-curricular activities as well. An article on Education.com talks about the three "P's" student-athletes learn that extend beyond the classroom: Persistence, Patience and Practice. Team members learn that practice is required, even when they would prefer to be spending time with their friends. They learn, the harder they work the better they perform. They also discover that by never giving up they are more likely to achieve their goals. These life lessons benefit students long after their high school years, helping them succeed in college and after. (*Public School Review*, June 2017)

The Weston High School athletic budget has been developed to support a diversified interscholastic program of 60 teams. Students have the option of participating on 29 varsity, 26 junior varsity and five freshmen teams. The program has strong community support and has annually received statewide recognition for overall program excellence. Twice in seven years we earned the Overall State Award, and the Weston High School Athletic Department was named the "Most Exemplary, Outstanding Athletic Department in the state of CT" by the Connecticut Interscholastic Athletic Conference (CIAC). (The CIAC has now done away with this overall award.) The Weston High School athletic program offers a wide variety of team and individual sports to support student skills and interests. This philosophy has led to a high degree of student participation with more than 70% of our students participating in at least one sport last school year. It is anticipated that 908 student/athletes will participate in the program next year.

In building the proposed budget, every effort has been made to deliver the same level of excellence to the student/athletes while also keeping the cost of our athletic program down. The athletic program budget is significantly enhanced by funding from sources outside the Board of Education budget, including the use of gate receipts (approximately \$14,000 annually), Weston Boosters Club (approximately \$30,000 annually), the Gridiron Club (approximately \$10,000 annually), and the Diamond Club (approximately \$5,000). In addition, Weston levies a user fee for athletes. The proposed budget has been developed using the assumption that the participation fee will remain \$100 per athlete per season with a \$400 family cap. Twenty percent of the participation fee does not directly affect the Athletic Budget (\$10 to Turf Replacement and \$10 to Athletic Facilities).

A total of 70 coaching positions are necessary to operate the 60 teams. We have been gradually adding assistant varsity coaching positions for the past eleven years. Two new assistant varsity coaching positions were not included in this year's proposed budget (FY 2019); we are hopeful that they will be included in FY 2020. We are pleased to maintain the current set of assistant varsity coaches, since these paid positions are necessary for us to continue to provide a safe, educationally sound environment for our student-athletes.

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Weston Public Schools, Weston, CT

<u>2017-2018 Actual</u>					<u>2018-2019 Projected</u>			
<u>Operating Budget FTE</u>	<u>Other Sources FTE</u>	<u>Total FTE</u>	<u>Program</u>		<u>Operating Budget FTE</u>	<u>Other Sources FTE</u>	<u>Total FTE</u>	<u>Change</u>
Certified Staff								
1.00	0.00	1.00	Athletic Director		1.00	0.00	1.00	0.00
Non Certified Staff								
1.00	0.00	1.00	Administrative Assistant		1.00	0.00	1.00	0.00
<u>1.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>1.00</u>			<u>1.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>1.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>