



To: NJSIAA Program Review Committee

From: Colleen Maguire, Executive Director

Date: May 31, 2024

RE: Public School Enrollments – Classification Methodology

Background

In accordance with NJSIAA Bylaws, every two years public schools shall be divided by enrollment into Groups, on a sports specific basis, as determined by the Executive Committee. Enrollment shall be defined as the sum of a school's student population for grades 9, 10, and 11. Enrollment figures shall be those reported to and certified by the Department of Education (DOE) for the purpose of obtaining state school aid. The central office (NJSIAA staff) will determine enrollment for each school based on the figures submitted by the school to the department of Education for state school aid.

Based on review of the 2023-2024 DOE enrollment summary report, there is an increasing trend in the number of public school districts with multiple high schools that fall under the jurisdiction of a single school district. The increasing trend primarily relates to specific academy programs, such as STEM, Science and Engineering, Fine and Performing Arts, etc.

NJSIAA staff has reached out to all school districts with multiple high schools to better understand their enrollment policies and to determine if students attending these high schools are eligible to participate in sports at the NJSIAA member high school(s) within the same school district.

In an effort to bring consistency across all school districts with multiple high schools, NJSIAA staff proposes the following methodology for use when mapping the enrollments per the DOE enrollment summary report in the NJSIAA classification tool. The classification tool is administered by a third-party consultant and is made available to NJSIAA staff to determine each sport specific classification.

Proposal – Multiple High School District Enrollment Methodology

Primary School:

A primary school is defined as the NJSIAA member school(s) within a multiple school district where students are eligible to participate in interscholastic sports. A primary school will have

students participating in interscholastic sports that are both enrolled at and attending this school and may also have students participating that are enrolled at and attending another high school in the same school district – these students return to the primary high school for the purposes of interscholastic sports. Students enrolled at and attending a primary school are not eligible to participate in interscholastic sports at other schools within the same school district. All other schools within a multiple school district not meeting the definition of a primary school will be considered an “alternate school”.

Enrollments at alternate schools within a multiple school district will be allocated in accordance with the methodology for alternate school enrollments – see below. This methodology is applicable to all schools within a multiple school district that have grades 9 – 11 enrollments but excludes schools that are solely for special education purposes. NJSIAA membership status for any school in the multiple school district is irrelevant for application of this policy. Under this policy, enrollments for all schools under the same school district per the DOE enrollment summary report will be accounted for, with the exception of special education schools.

Alternate School Enrollment Methodology:

For public school districts with multiple high schools listed in the DOE enrollment summary report, the enrollments for alternate schools will be allocated as follows:

- a. If NJSIAA-sanctioned interscholastic sports are offered at the alternate school, then 50% of the alternate school’s enrollment will be added to the primary school’s enrollment. For multi-school districts with more than one primary school, then 50% of the alternate school’s enrollment will be divided equally and added to the enrollments for all primary schools within the district.
- b. If NJSIAA-sanctioned sports are not offered at the alternate school, then 100% of the school’s enrollment will be added to the primary school’s enrollment. For multi-school districts with more than one primary school, then 100% of the alternate school’s enrollment will be divided equally and added to the enrollments for all primary schools within the district.

Under scenario a. above, the sports offered at the alternate school does not matter – if students attending an alternate school are eligible to participate at a primary school, then 50% of the alternate school’s enrollment will be divided equally to all primary schools within the school district. The classification tool cannot accommodate sport specific enrollments for each school – the classification tool has one enrollment per NJSIAA member school that is used in all sport specific classifications.

For multiple school districts that do not have a school(s) that meets the definition of a primary school, then the enrollments of all schools within the school district will be divided equally and added to each NJSIAA member schools in the school district. This scenario is applicable to multiple school districts that allow students to choose to participate in interscholastic sports at any school within their school district.

For multiple school districts that do not have alternate schools within their school district, then the policy is not applicable and the enrollments per the annual NJ DOE enrollment report will not be adjusted. This is applicable to multiple school districts that only allow students to

participate in interscholastic sports at the school where they are enrolled and attending – students are not allowed to participate at another school in the school district, regardless of the sports offered at any school in the district.

Examples – Multiple High School District Enrollment Methodology

County	District	School Name	Enrollment (Grade 9 – 11)	Type of School *	Percentage to be Allocated	Adjusted Enrollment (Grade 9 – 11)
County #1	District #1	ABC HS	400	Primary	N/A	550
County #1	District #1	STEM HS	150	Alternate b.	100%	N/A
County #2	District #2	ABC HS	500	Primary	N/A	600
County #2	District #2	XYZ HS	400	Primary	N/A	500
County #2	District #2	STEM HS	200	Alternate b.	100%	N/A
County #3	District #3	ABC HS	1,000	Primary	N/A	1,350
County #3	District #3	Academy HS	300	Alternate a.	50%	N/A
County #3	District #3	STEM HS	200	Alternate b.	100%	N/A
County #4	District #4	ABC HS	800	Primary	N/A	975
County #4	District #4	XYZ HS	500	Primary	N/A	675
County #4	District #4	Academy HS	300	Alternate a.	50%	N/A
County #4	District #4	STEM HS	200	Alternate b.	100%	N/A

Alternate a. – NJSIAA sanctioned sports are offered, but students are allowed to participate at a District primary school (50% of enrollment is allocated equally among primary school(s)).

Alternate b. – no NJSIAA sanctioned sports are offered, but students are allowed to participate at a District primary school (100% of enrollment is allocated equally among primary school(s)).