



To: NJSIAA Program Review Committee

From: Colleen Maguire, Executive Director

Date: November 11, 2024

RE: Newark Public School District – B/G Basketball Classifications

Background

In June 2024, the Executive Committee approved a proposal that provides a consistent methodology for use when mapping enrollments to member school districts with multiple high schools. The Newark Public School District is a school district with multiple high schools – it has 17 high schools, 15 of which are NJSIAA member schools.

The methodology requires that the enrollments at alternate high schools be mapped to those primary high schools where the students are eligible to participate in interscholastic sports. A primary high school is the NJSIAA member school within the district where students are eligible to participate in interscholastic sports.

The Newark Public School District has the following 6 primary high schools:

- Barringer High School
- Central High School
- East Side High School
- Malcolm X Shabazz High School
- Weequahic High School
- West Side High school.

There are 9 alternate high schools that are NJSIAA member schools and who offer interscholastic sports. Students attending these alternate high schools either participate at the school they attend or at a primary school if the alternate school does not offer the sport. For the purposes of our classifications, 50% of the total enrollment for these 9 alternate schools are divided by 6 and added to the enrollment of each primary school.

There are also 2 alternate high schools that are not NJSIAA member schools and do not offer interscholastic sports. Students attending these alternate high schools participate at a primary school only – they are not eligible to participate at the other 9 alternate high schools that do offer interscholastic sports. For the purposes of our classifications, 100% of the total enrollment for these 2 alternate schools are divided by 6 and added to the enrollment of each primary school.

Proposal

The Newark Public School District is asking for a waiver to this classification methodology for the sports of boys basketball and girls basketball. The school district is requesting that the enrollments for the 9 alternate high schools that are NJSIAA member schools and who offer interscholastic sports not be mapped to the 6 primary high schools. In addition, the school district is requesting that the enrollments for 1 of the alternate high schools that is not an NJSIAA member school not be mapped to the 6 primary high schools. This alternate high school (Newark Fashion and Design School) is hosting a boys and girls basketball team that will be playing a limited schedule during the 2024-2025 season – the goal being to grow their program and play a full varsity schedule the following season. Students enrolled at and attending this alternate high school are not allowed to play for any other Newark Public School District high school.

The rationale for this request is that both boys and girls basketball is the district's most populous sport and is played across all Newark Public Schools. Students are only allowed to play at the school they are enrolled at and attending. By mapping the additional enrollments for these alternate schools, the primary schools are at a competitive disadvantage – the enrollments will include students that are not eligible to participate.

Therefore, the Newark Public School District respectfully requests that the enrollments used for the 6 primary schools only include their natural enrollment plus the enrollment for the remaining alternate high school (Newark Data Science and Information Technology) that is not an NJSIAA member school and does not offer interscholastic sports. This will lead to different enrollments used in the boys and girls basketball classifications as compared to all other sports.

Lastly, the Newark Public School District agrees that any school who violates this waiver will result in immediate ineligibility for that year's NJSIAA state tournament – there is no appeal of the violation. This means that any NJSIAA member school that has a student participating who is not currently enrolled at and attending that school will be in violation of this waiver – the exception being students enrolled at and attending Newark Data Science and Information Technology, these students are eligible to participate at one of the 6 primary high schools.