



## MEMORANDUM

Memo No. 19-146

TO: Trustees  
Student Trustees

FROM: Camille Williams-Taylor, Director of Education and Secretary of the Board  
Nadia Towaj, Superintendent of Program and Learning K-12  
Shawn Lehman, Superintendent of Instruction

DATE: 26 November 2019

RE: **School Boards With High Performance Athlete (HPA) Programs**

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In response to trustees' queries at the 19 November 2019 Committee of the Whole meeting, the following information is being provided to inform the discussion on a notice of motion to phase out the High Performance Athlete program at John McCrae Secondary School commencing in September 2021.

In reviewing the websites of school boards in Ontario, it was determined the following school boards offer programs for high performance athletes. Please note that this was not an exhaustive search as some school boards may offer the program, but the information may not be readily accessible through their district websites.

Peel District School Board:

Students who live in the Peel Region will be offered spots in the Peel Region High Performers Program first. The program is offered at Britannia Public school (grade 4 to 5), Dolphin Senior Public School (grade 6 to 8) and Mississauga Secondary School (grade 9-12). In order for high-performing athletes to qualify for the program, students must be recommended by a coach, agent or instructor who can verify the students' levels of competitiveness, training hours and schedules. There is no cost to attend the program. If students have been accepted into the program, and live within the school boundary, they are eligible for busing only if they meet the distance criteria outlined in their policy.

### York Region District School Board:

There are thirteen secondary schools that offer the HPA program in the York District School Board. The program is offered to grade 9 to 12 students who are competing at the provincial, national and/or international level as a specialized, cooperative education program. Students may earn up to two co-op credits for each subject-related course they take and is considered the same as any other curriculum course. The program is tailored to meet the learning needs of students who are committed to focusing on their long-term career objectives while accommodating competitive needs. Criteria for acceptance is based upon the number of hours committed to training, learning needs of the student, levels of competition, training season and a completed coaches' reference form.

### Bill Crothers Secondary School York Region District School Board

This stream of high performance programming is designed for the athlete who has serious aspirations to train and compete at the next level, i.e., National Team or University. This competition structure is differentiated from typical high school sport in that the season may be longer and practices may be more in-depth and incorporate regular strength and conditioning sessions. Only some sports are able to fit into this model based on the length and intensity of the athletes' out of school sport commitment. In addition to completing the online application, all applicants must submit an IEP if applicable, two required reference forms (coach reference and teacher reference), a summary of sport involvement and their previous report cards. Bill Crothers Secondary School offers a vast and diverse Health and Physical Education (HPE) curriculum from grade 9 to 12 allowing students to gain credits while also being introduced to a wide variety of sports and sport specific programs.

### Limestone District School Board:

Limestone District School Board offers a High Performance Athletics Program as part of their Focus Program offerings. Students in grade 11 and 12 can apply for this program that is offered at Loyalist Collegiate in Kingston. Students attend the school for a semester, take the same three courses (Exercise Science, Organizational Studies and Healthy Activity Living). At the conclusion of the semester, the students return to their home school.

The program is designed for students who are seeking opportunities to participate in sport at the Canadian Interuniversity Sport (CIS) or National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) level and have an interest in post secondary education in health sciences.

Students are not permitted to play on school teams while they are attending the HPA Focus Program. Transportation is provided to students who live outside the school boundary.

### Ottawa Catholic District School Board:

Each secondary school provides accommodations to high performing athletes and artists with demanding training and competition schedules who perform at the provincial and national levels.

Schools provide a variety of supports for high school athletes and artists which may include:

- personalized timetabling;
- flexible attendance expectations to suit training and competition schedules;
- later school start times;
- access to e-learning;
- access to Achievement Centres (flexible learning environment);
- a staff mentor/advocate;
- assignment completion accommodations; and
- support in accessing summer school learning opportunities.

### Durham District School Board

Durham District School Board (DDSB) works in partnership with the Academy for Student Athlete Development (ASAD). ASAD supports secondary school student-athletes in high performance sports or those training to compete at provincial and national levels. ASAD helps student-athletes at these high levels of competition and performance athletically, academically and psychologically. An ASAD representative will follow up with each athlete and family to discuss application status and the admissions procedure. The athlete and family meet with the respective school and partnering school board to ensure their academic schedule aligns with ASAD and the students' academic pathway. Enrolment fees cover programming and support services provided through ASAD. Fees differ according to the stream of enrolment, ranging from \$5,000 to \$9,000 a year. Financial assistance may be available through the ASAD Academy Assistance program.

### Toronto District School Board

Toronto District School Board has three secondary schools that offer a similar program to the OCDSB's HPA program.

- Birchmount Park CI (Birchmount Exceptional Athlete Program -BEAP)
- Northview Heights SS (Academic Program for gifted Athletes - APGA)
- Silverthorn CI (High Performer Program for Elite Athletes)

The academic programs at these three schools are for students grade 9 to 12 who are elite athletes involved in regional, provincial, national or international competition. These students are offered intense training schedules and the opportunity for a more flexible timetable in order to balance their out of school commitments so that they can strive for both academic and athletic excellence. Criteria requirements differ slightly, though all three schools request a transcript identifying academic achievements and/or a most

recent report, a letter of recommendation from a professional coach, documentation from a sports governing body (i.e., Ontario Tennis Association (OTA), Greater Toronto Hockey League (GTHL)) and a letter of intent outlining why the athlete wishes to join the program. Each school will accommodate the students' needs and permit special timetables and arrangements to co-exist with coaching and travel schedules.

Conseils des écoles publiques de l'Est de l'Ontario

Conseils des écoles publiques de l'Est de l'Ontario (CEPEO) offers a sport-studies program at Louis-Riel Secondary School for elite athletes at the secondary school level. Students follow a regular timetable with the last period dedicated to their training. This program targets student athletes who aspire to achieve a high level of competition and are a member of a local sports club with experience in competitions at regional, provincial or national level. This program also caters to student athletes with experience in competitions at school level or who are a part of a club or community team and student athletes who are passionate about practicing their respective sport. All travel fees are covered for the students and all students have free access to arenas, local community gyms and local ski hills. Students who live outside the school boundary are eligible for school bus transportation or for an OC transpo bus pass.

Former districts of students enrolled in OCDSB HPA program:

<b>Year</b>	<b>Other School Boards</b>	<b>Total</b>
2016/2017	Other Country (1) CSDCEO (1) OCSB (6)	8
2017/2018	Private School (1) CEPEO (1) CDSBEO (2) CSDCEO (1) OCSB (7)	12
2018/2019	Private School (1) CSDCEO (2) OCSB (6)	9
2019/2020	CEPEO (1) OCSB (4)	5

If you have any further questions, please contact Nadia Towaij at [nadia.towaij@ocdsb.ca](mailto:nadia.towaij@ocdsb.ca) or at 613-596-8211 ext. 8573 or Shawn Lehman at [shawn.lehman@ocdsb.ca](mailto:shawn.lehman@ocdsb.ca) or at 613-596-8211 ext 8391.

cc Senior Staff  
Acting Manager, Board Services  
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