



Championing Success

High School Athletics Program Update

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WCPSS Board Presentation
March 18, 2025

Desired Outcomes



Outline the growth and current status of high school athletics, including participation and staffing needs.

Examine the challenges and opportunities facing the athletics department.

Share a vision for sustaining excellence and securing resources for athletics programs.

Championing Success
High School Athletics Program Update



PRIORITY 1

STUDENT KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS

The Four Cs

Literacies | Knowledge and Skills

High-quality Instructional Core for All Content Areas

AIM 8: Expand access to high-quality instructional programming, enrichment, and co-curricular activities to provide a point of connection for every student.

PRIORITY 2

STUDENT DISPOSITIONS AND WELL-BEING

Behavioral Health

High-quality Instructional Core for All Content Areas

AIM 9: Provide a safe, inclusive learning environment that is responsive to all students' behavioral health needs and promotes a sense of belonging.

Strategic Plan **Alignment**





Current Offerings by Season

Fall

- Flag Football- Women's
- **Football - Men's**
- Gymnastics- Women's
- **Soccer - Men's**
- **Volleyball - Women's**
- Cross Country - Men's
- Cross County - Women's
- Tennis - Women's
- **Cheerleading - Coed**
- Golf - Women's

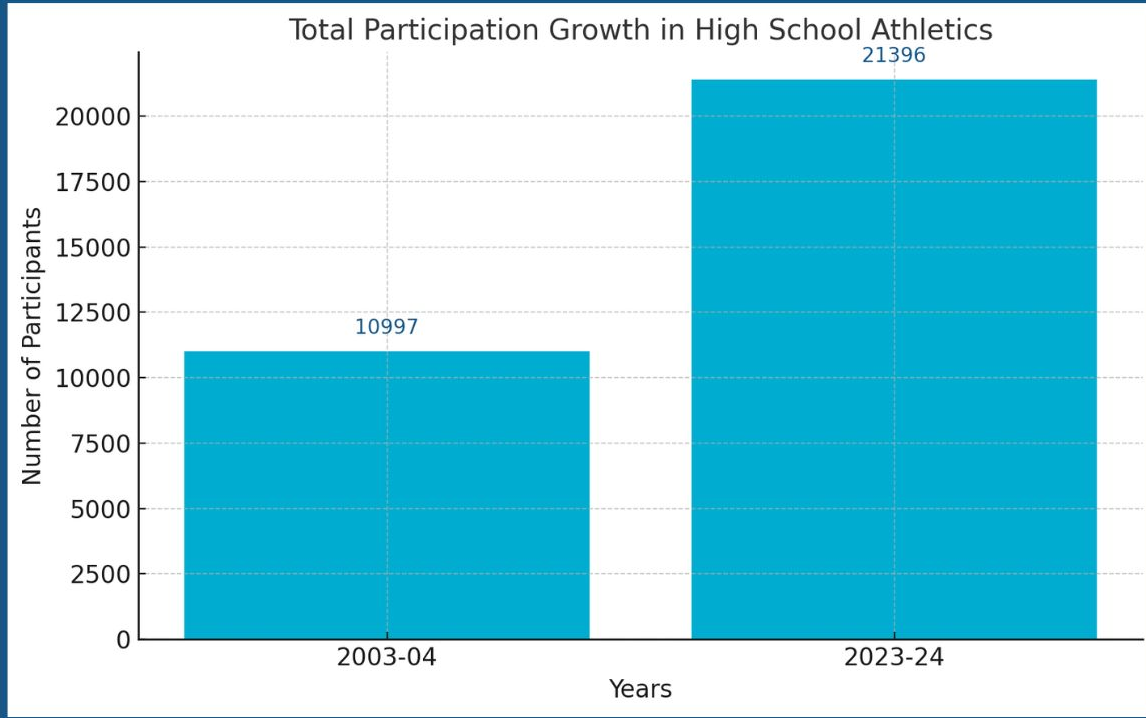
Winter

- **Basketball - Men's**
- **Basketball - Women's**
- Wrestling - Men's
- Wrestling - Women's
- Swimming & Diving - Men's
- Swimming & Diving- Women's
- **Cheerleading - Coed**
- Indoor Track & Field - Men's
- Indoor Track & Field-Women's

Spring

- **Soccer - Women's**
- **Softball - Women's**
- **Baseball - Men's**
- Tennis - Men's
- Golf - Men's
- Track and Field - Men's
- Track and Field - Women's
- **Lacrosse- Men's**
- **Lacrosse - Women's**
- Stunt - Women's

Denotes Varsity and JV Teams

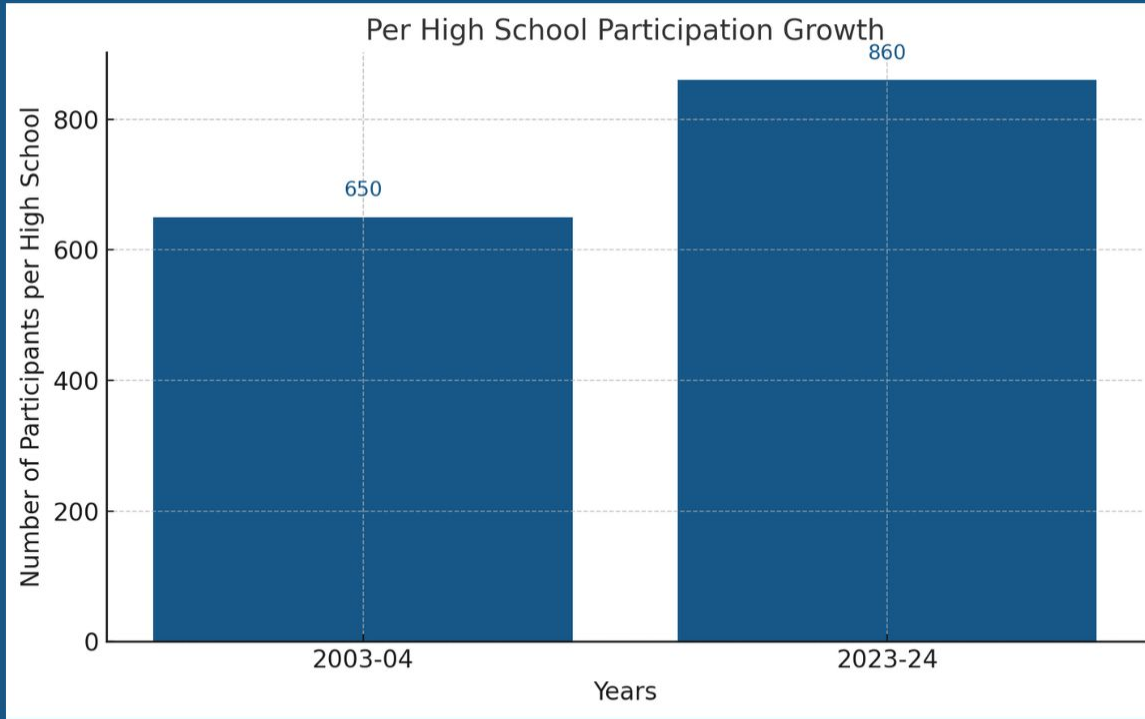


WCPSS PARTICIPATION GROWTH



21,396

Total participants have nearly doubled from 10,997 in 2003-04 to 21,396 in 2023-24.



**INCREASED
DEMAND**



Participants per high school have grown by over 30%, from 650 to 860.



State Championships



99

MEN'S STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS

Across All Sports

74

WOMEN'S STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS

Across All Sports

88

RUNNER-UPS

Between Men and Women

382

MEN'S INDIVIDUAL STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS

Tennis, Cross Country, Golf, Winter Track,
Swim and Dive, Spring Track and Wrestling

253

WOMEN'S INDIVIDUAL STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS

Tennis, Cross Country, Golf, Winter Track,
Swim and Dive and Spring Track



WAKE COUNTY
PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM



Growth in High School Athletics

Recent Additions

- Men's JV and Varsity Lacrosse
- Women's JV and Varsity Lacrosse
- Winter Track and Field
- Stunt
- Additional Level of JV Volleyball
- Unified Track and Field (no supplement)
- Women's Wrestling
- Women's Flag Football



Coaching Positions



- Athletic Director
- 2 Athletic Trainers/First Responder
- 44 District Supported Coaching Positions per School



Increased Demand on Athletic Directors

- Digital Ticketing
- Social Media
- Cameras – Live Streaming
- Family Involvement with College Exposure for Scholarships
- Concussion Law Compliance
- Increase in Responsibility for Field Maintenance and Upkeep Due to Pause in Services by M & O without Additional Financial Support



Assistant Athletic Directors

- Schools are using “Flex Positions” or local funds to fund assistant athletic directors.
- Takes away from local funds to support material and operational needs.
- Flex positions are intended to support the supervision of larger programs school to school.
- Future district-wide Assistant AD supplements would better support consistent school operations.





Challenges in Sustaining Excellence

LOGISTICS

Challenges with Further Expansion



Facility Availability

- Limited space for practices and competitions.
- Conflicts with existing team schedules.
- Lack of sport-specific facilities (e.g., fields, courts, or specialized equipment).



Scheduling

- Coordinating practice and game times.
- Balancing transportation needs for away games with bus driver availability.



Equipment and Uniforms

- Securing funding for initial purchases and ongoing replacements.
- Storage space for additional gear.



Officials and Staff

- Recruiting and retaining qualified coaches and officials.
- Ensuring adequate training and certification for new staff.



FINANCIAL Challenges with Further Expansion



Budget Constraints

- Covering costs for equipment, uniforms, transportation, and stipends for coaches.
- Managing the financial impact on the existing budget or finding new revenue sources.



Fundraising Demands

- Increased pressure on booster clubs and other fundraising efforts to support additional teams.



OPERATIONAL Challenges with Further Expansion



Administrative Capacity

- Increased workload for athletic directors.
- Managing compliance with state and local athletic regulations.



Transportation

- Increased demand for buses, drivers, and travel arrangements.
Schools already are using local funds to cover bus repairs; this will increase with any expansion.



Safety and Supervision

- Meeting supervision requirements with limited staff.
- Ensuring appropriate medical coverage for games and practices by athletic trainers.



With the addition of each high school...



ADDITION OF HIGH SCHOOLS SINCE 2000

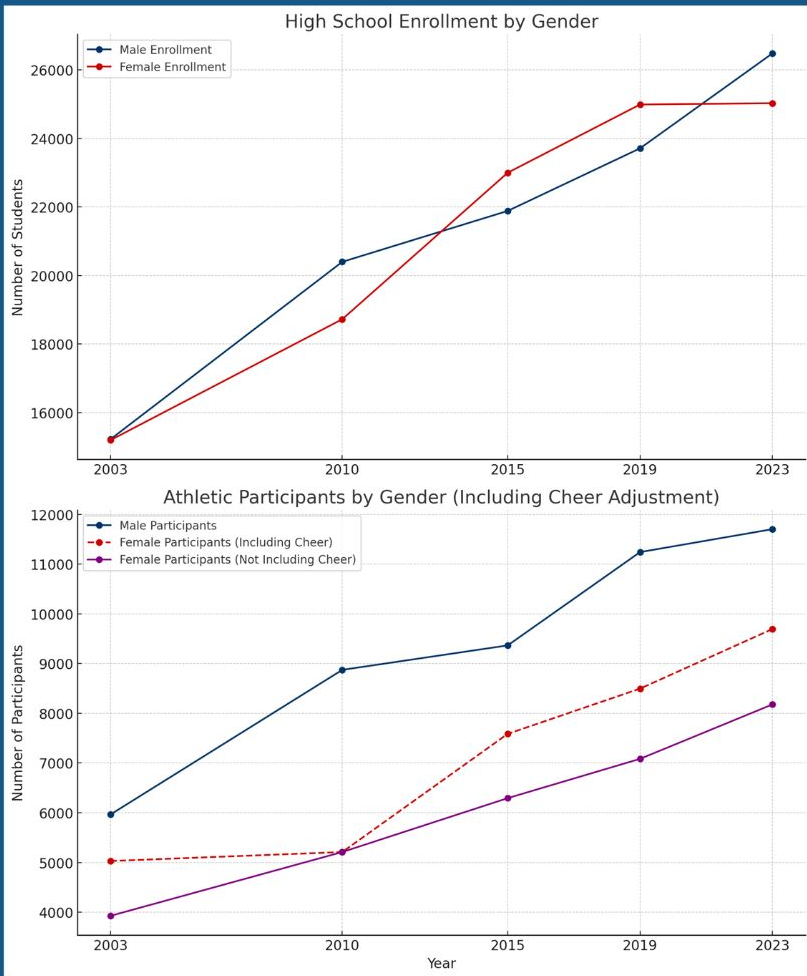


Each School:

- 1 Athletic Director
- 1 Head Athletic Trainer
- 1 Assistant Athletic Trainer or First Responder
- 46 Coaches

Adding to the School Staff Supported by the District Director of Athletics by:

- 11 Athletic Directors
- 22 Athletic Trainers/First Responders
- 506 Coaches
- Thousands of student athletes and parents



Growth in High School Enrollment and Athletic Participation



PARTICIPATION INCREASE

Athletic participation has grown significantly, from 10,997 in 2003 to 21,396 in 2023.



CLOSING THE GAP

The gap between male and female participants has narrowed over the years, highlighting increased inclusivity in athletics.

Unified Sports

Unified Sports is a program within Special Olympics North Carolina that brings together athletes with and without intellectual disabilities on the same team, promoting inclusion and mutual respect through sports.

This initiative fosters a spirit of equality and companionship, breaking down barriers and building communities through athletic competition.



Background in WCPSS

- **2015 Launch:** Partnered with SONC to introduce Unified Sports.
- **Current Offering:** 13 high schools currently host Unified Track and Field teams.



Current Challenges

- **No Supplements:** Unified Sports staff currently not receiving district supplements.
- **Limited Scope:** Only one season offered, lacking diversity in sports.



Future Considerations

- **New Central Role:** Need for a dedicated position in Central Services Athletics.





A Vision for the Future of Athletics

Advancing Athletics Excellence

Student Leadership & Development

Establish the **WCPSS Student-Athlete Leadership Advisory & Development Committee**

Building Future Athletic Leaders

Create a **Mentor & Aspiring Athletic Director Program** to develop future-ready athletics leaders

Coaching Excellence & Education

Launch an annual **WCPSS Coaches Symposium** to support coaches and ensure compliance

Recognition & Legacy

Develop a **WCPSS Athletics Hall of Fame & Annual Awards Gala** to celebrate excellence



Future Athletic Department Staffing Enhancement

Currently operated by a small team of two members managing all aspects of athletic operations.

Director and Senior Administrator



Leadership and Strategy

Additional roles to **oversee program levels** and initiatives.



Administrative Support

Enhanced support to **manage workload** and aid program execution.



Financial Management

Increased focus on **financial oversight** for sustainability.





Questions?

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