



November 11, 2020

FROM: UEC Principals and Athletic Directors
TO: UEC Communities and News Media Outlets
RE: Statement on Boys' and Girls' Basketball

Dear Valued UEC Partner,

As an integral part of the overall education of students, the member schools of the Upstate Eight Conference recognize the importance of athletics and activities in the lives of our students. We believe these activities teach many important lessons such as respect, teamwork, goal-setting, determination, and humility to name a few. We also need to make sure the health and safety of our students, staff, and families is of the utmost significance. We appreciate your understanding and patience as school districts across the state navigate through the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Over the past few weeks, the Illinois High School Association (IHSA) and the Governor's Office along with other immediate state governing bodies such as the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) and the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) have taken different positions regarding the playing of the high school basketball season. The largest impact came when the state agencies shifted basketball from a medium risk sport to a high risk sport.

The IHSA has taken the stance they believe basketball can be played safely. Unfortunately, the state governing bodies currently do not agree. Furthermore, the IHSA has no governing authority over school districts. While we know many families were hoping the school districts and the Upstate Eight Conference would allow for basketball to be played, our schools are required to follow the Governor's directives and wait until an agreement is reached. This could mean delaying the season, moving the season, or worst case, canceling the season.

On behalf of the Upstate Eight Conference you can expect us to prioritize the health and safety of our students, staff, and families. We will continue to fight for our students. We will continue to monitor state agencies in anticipation they issue further guidance. We will keep you informed of further developments. Above all, our goal is to avoid potential transmission of COVID-19 at all events.

We appreciate your support in our continued efforts to do what is best for our students, families, and communities.

Respectfully,

Bartlett High School
East Aurora High School
Elgin High School
Fenton High School
Glenbard East High School

Glenbard South High School
Larkin High School
South Elgin High School
Streamwood High School
West Chicago High School