



# Athletics



Mr. Mark Berkowitz, Athletic Director

115 School Road  
Weston, CT 06883

Telephone: 203-221-4844  
Fax: 203-221-0045

## ATHLETICS

The Weston High School Interscholastic Athletics Program is an integral part of the school's total educational program. Interscholastic competition provides students with the opportunity to grow physically, mentally and emotionally as individuals; but also as members of their school and community. Recent analysis in the education media speaks to the importance of school athletics:

“There were several instances where multiple sport students-athletes have flourished individually and added value to our school community. In speaking with our school counselors, the most successful students applying to college and for scholarships are the ones that are involved in athletics....” (*National Federation of High School's High School Today*, pg. 25 May 2019)

The Weston High School athletic budget has been developed to support a diversified interscholastic program, offering a wide variety of team and individual sports to support student skills and interests. This philosophy has led to a high degree of student participation with approximately 70% of our students participating in at least one sport last school year. It is anticipated that 930 student-athletes will participate in the program next year. Students have the option of participating on 65 teams, including 32 varsity, 27 junior varsity and 4 freshmen teams, along with two seasons of ESports (ESports is not currently funded by the BOE budget).

A total of 71 coaching positions are necessary to operate the 63 teams (not including the two seasons for ESports). We have been gradually adding assistant varsity coaching positions for the past seven years. All of our contact sports now have assistant varsity coaching positions. No new coaches are included in this year's proposed budget, although we will need to turn our sights to our non-contact varsity sports in the near future as they are necessary to continue to provide a safe, educationally sound environment for all of our student-athletes.

In building the proposed budget, every effort has been made to deliver the same level of excellence to the student/athletes while also keeping the cost of our athletic program down. The athletic program budget is significantly enhanced by funding from sources outside the Board of Education budget, including the use of gate receipts (approximately \$14,500 annually), Weston Boosters Club (approximately \$30,000 annually), the Gridiron Club (approximately \$10,000 annually), and the Diamond Club (approximately \$5,000 annually). In addition, Weston levies a user fee for athletes. The proposed budget has been developed using the assumption that the participation fee will remain \$100 per athlete per season with a \$400 family cap. Twenty percent of the participation fee does not directly assist the Athletic Budget (\$10 to Turf Replacement and \$10 to Athletic Facilities).

Besides strong community support, WHS athletics has annually received statewide recognition for overall program excellence. Twice in seven years we earned the Overall State Award as the Weston High School Athletic Department was named the “Most Exemplary, Outstanding Athletic Department in the state of CT” by the Connecticut Interscholastic Athletic Conference (CIAC). (The CIAC has now done away with this overall award.)