

Extra-Curricular Athletic Participation Credit

Sargent High School students may earn 0.5 elective credit per semester for successful participation in a school-sponsored sport, with a maximum of 1.0 elective credit awarded for athletic participation during the academic year. These credits are intended to recognize the educational and developmental value of athletics as an extension of the school day, while maintaining academic standards and fairness. Credits earned for athletic participation will be recorded as Pass/Fail, not be calculated into a student's overall Grade Point Average (GPA) and are considered elective credits only; they do not replace required credits in core academic subjects.

To be eligible for this credit, the sport must be officially recognized and sponsored by Sargent School District or in the case the sport is not offered by Sargent School District, the neighboring school district where the Sargent athlete is participating. Students must complete the season in good standing, meeting all attendance, conduct, and participation requirements as set by the coach and athletic department. Additionally, students must remain academically eligible under CHSAA and district guidelines throughout the season. The credit is awarded on a pass/fail basis, with athletic ability not being a criterion, but regular attendance and active participation required.

At the end of each semester, coaches will submit a list of eligible student-athletes to the Athletic Director, confirming successful completion of the season. The guidance counselor will verify academic eligibility and forward the list to the principal for final approval. Upon approval, the K-12 counselor will record 0.5 elective credit on the student's transcript for that semester's sport. Students may accumulate up to 1.0 elective credit through repeated participation in athletics but may not exceed this maximum. Only one 0.50 credit may be awarded per sport per semester, regardless of participation in multiple teams or levels, and students may not receive credit for the same sport more than once in the same semester.

Sargent School District recognizes athletics participation fosters discipline, teamwork, sportsmanship, and community pride-qualities that align with the school's educational mission. The policy will be included in the student handbook, the athletic handbook, and reviewed regularly by the board, school administration, and the athletic director to ensure compliance with Colorado state law, CHSAA regulations, and the evolving needs of the Sargent school community.

Graduation Requirements

Units of Credit Needed Class of 2025 and Beyond

English 4 credit
Mathematics 4 credit (Must include Alg 1, Geometry, Algebra II)
Science 4 credit (Two need to be lab based)
Social Studies 4 credit
World Language 1 credit
Electives 9 credit

Total Credits Needed 26

Currently, the class of 2025 and beyond has the opportunity to earn a total of 28 credits (7 per year) .

Impact of the elective credit for athletic participation - Policy IKF-R was discontinued in practice for ten years plus and in searching for an answer as to why, through outreach to past administrators and counselors, the team was able to discern there were parent complaints about lack of equity and issues around GPA padding.

With the policy as updated by the current Sargent team, Sargent students will be able to earn a total of **29 credits** and potentially have two semesters freed to take college classes, CTE courses, AP courses, and foreign language courses as well as other elective or core classes of their choosing. The addition of this credit toward electives will also allow students to free time up later in their school career to participate in work-study and internship opportunities the district is working to develop in line with the strategic plan and development of graduation pathways.

To address arguments of inequity around students who experience restrictions keeping them from participating in after school sports, these elective credits are on a Pass/Fail grading scale and will not affect GPA calculations (this is the same at Sierra Grande and at Del Norte). Thus, students who cannot participate in after school activities will not be unfairly impacted. Additionally, these elective credits will not supplant the district's offering of physical education classes based on state physical education standards, taught by a licensed teacher, that are available to all students at Sargent High School.

Students may be able to graduate early with the ability to earn an additional credit through sports participation for elective credit. As graduation pathways are developed, the intent is for students to spend any additional time within their schedules earning college credits, taking CTE, Foreign Language, AP, and courses of interest, as well as participating in work study and/or internship opportunities.

Counselor will work with AD to update transcripts for the 2024-2025 Freshmen, Sophomores, and Juniors who remained eligible and completed a sports season in the 2024-2025, 2023-2024, and 2022-2023 school years, with the practice of Policy IKF-R being reinstated with the incoming 2025-2026 Freshmen students.

Comparative schools - Sierra Grande - 1 required credit of physical education and participation in sports satisfies this requirement (per Superintendent Jones, the credit is Pass/Fail and does not weight toward GPA); Del Norte - "Successfully completing a high school sport is 0.5 of a PE credit; only 2 seasons of sports or 1 full credit can be earned and each will be marked Pass/Fail."

Approved: 6/24/02

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