



SDHSAA ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT TEAM AWARD

RECOGNIZING Schools, Athletic Teams and Fine Arts Groups for Academic Excellence

Initiated during the 1996-97 school year, the SDHSAA ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT TEAM AWARD program is designed to recognize varsity athletic teams and fine arts groups for their academic excellence. The South Dakota High School Activities Association believes that high school students learn in two distinct ways; inside the classroom and outside the classroom – on the stage and/or athletic field. This academic program creates a positive environment for school teams to have its members excel in the classroom. This program is also meant to motivate students toward academic excellence and to promote academic encouragement from teammates.

WHAT This Program Will Accomplish

All varsity athletic teams and fine arts groups that participate in Association sponsored activities are eligible for this recognition program. Based on a duplicated count, as reported in the 2020-21 SDHSAA Participation Survey, over 30,000 students participate in interscholastic athletics and over 29,000 more are involved in fine arts activities. The Academic Team Award program provides high school students with the opportunity to prove they can be overwhelmingly successful in both academics as well as in athletic and fine arts activities.

HOW the Program Will Work

All varsity athletic teams and fine arts groups that achieve a combined GPA of 3.0 or higher, are eligible to receive the SDHSAA ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT TEAM AWARD. A complete listing of those activities eligible to receive this award appears on the next page.

1. The SDHSAA asks **each high school principal** to compute the GPA for each “varsity” athletic team and fine arts group. If the team or group achieves the combined 3.0 GPA, the team/group can receive the Academic Team Award.
2. At the completion of each activity season the **high school principal** is requested to submit the online *Academic Achievement Team Award* form to the SDHSAA. The form should include each athletic team and fine arts group in the school that qualifies to receive the Academic Team Award. The form is available in the Varsity Bound forms section of the SDHSAA website.

FORMS MAY BE SUBMITTED ANY TIME DURING THE YEAR FOLLOWING THE COMPLETION OF THE ACTIVITY. Although the form for each team/group may be submitted at any time, the timeline for each season to be included in the season’s press release are:

Fall & Winter Activity Seasons - **Form Due Date – February 1**
Spring Activity Season - **Form Due Date – June 10**

* **NOTE:** Some Region Solo-Ensemble Music contests are held following the Winter Activity Season report deadline and should be submitted with the Spring Activity Season report. Additionally, some Region Large Group Music contests are held prior to the Winter Activity Season report deadline and should be submitted with the Winter Activity Season report.

3. Following the submission of the online form, the SDHSAA will mail recognition award certificates for each qualifying varsity team/group to the school principal.
4. The SDHSAA will send a press release to the state's daily newspapers and other major media listing the schools and their teams/groups that achieved the award for the season. The press release for each season will be sent on or around the below dates:

Fall and Winter Activity Seasons – February 15
Spring Activity Season – June 20

CRITERIA for the school Academic Achievement Team Award

1. Only varsity level teams in athletics and fine arts activities are eligible for this award. Teams other than Varsity level (i.e., Junior Varsity, B squad, etc.) are not eligible for this award.
2. The GPA for all athletic teams and fine arts groups shall be calculated using the most recent grading period at the conclusion of a sports or fine arts activity. Each school will use its own system for computing GPAs.
3. **CO-OP TEAMS/GROUPS:**
In those situations where a school is part of a co-op for an activity, each school shall use only the GPA of its own students to determine eligibility for the award. ***DO NOT USE THE COMBINED GPA OF ALL STUDENTS THAT PARTICIPATE IN THE CO-OP ACTIVITY.***
4. **ATHLETIC TEAMS:**
In athletics, the GPA for an athletic team must include all team members that dress and/or participate in the first level of state qualifying competition. In those sports that do not conduct sub-state competition, the team must include all members who compete at the state tournament. In order to be eligible for the athletic team award, each school must have sufficient entries to qualify in the team standings.
5. **FINE ARTS ACTIVITY GROUPS:**
 - A. In speech activities, the GPA of a debate team, oral interpretation team or one-act play cast and crew must include team members that participate in the first level of state qualifying competition. In those fine arts activities that do not conduct sub-state competition, the team must include all members who participate in that activity's state event.
 - B. In music activities, the GPA shall include all students auditioning for All-State Orchestra, All-State Band, or All-State Jazz Band and all students participating in All-State Chorus or in the regional solo/ensemble music contests for band, chorus or orchestra and the regional large group music contests for band, chorus or orchestra.
 - C. In Student Council, the GPA shall include all student members of the student council on April 1st.
 - D. In journalism activities, the GPA shall include all students participating as a member of their school newspaper, literary publications or yearbook staff on May 15th.

THE ACTIVITIES ELIGIBLE TO RECEIVE THIS AWARD ARE:

DUE FEBRUARY 1

All-State Chorus
All-State Orchestra
Boys Cross Country
Boys Golf
Boys Soccer
Competitive Cheer
Competitive Dance
Football Cheerleaders
Football
Girls Cross Country
Girls Soccer
Girls Tennis
Oral Interpretation
Volleyball

DUE JUNE 10

All-State Band
All-State Jazz Band
All-State Show Choir
Band Solo-Ensemble Group*
Boys Basketball Cheerleaders
Boys Basketball
Boys Golf
Boys Tennis
Boys Track & Field
Debate & Individual Events
Girls Basketball Cheerleaders
Girls Basketball
Girls Golf
Girls Track & Field
Gymnastics
Large Group Band
Large Group Chorus
Large Group Orchestra
Newspaper
One-Act Play
Orchestra Solo-Ensemble Group*
Student Council
Visual Arts
Vocal Solo-Ensemble Group*
Wrestling Cheerleaders
Wrestling
Yearbook

* The "group" consists of ALL the vocal, band or orchestra entries in the Region Solo/Ensemble Contest.