



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 2017-18 SDHSAA Participation Survey, over 30,500 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 grade point average 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 grade point average (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 Application 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 *Application Form* is available at the "**School Zone**" on SDHSAA website.

APPLICATIONS CAN BE SUBMITTED ANY TIME DURING THE YEAR FOLLOWING THE COMPLETION OF THE ACTIVITY. Although the application form for each team/group can be submitted at any time, the timeline for each season's Academic Award Teams/Groups to be included in the season's press release are:

Fall Activity Season	-	Report Due Date - December 20
Winter Activity Season *	-	Report Due Date - April 10
Spring Activity Season *	-	Report 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. **ALSO:** 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 *Application 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:

Fall Activity Season – By January 15
Winter Activity Season – By April 20
Spring Activity Season – By 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 grade point average (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 grade point averages.
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 grade point average 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 grade point average (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 grade point average (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 grade point average (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 grade point average (GPA) shall include all student members of the student council on April 1st.
 - D. In journalism activities, the grade point averages (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:

FALL ACTIVITIES

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

WINTER ACTIVITIES

One-Act Play Cast & Crew
Gymnastics Team
Wrestling Team
Wrestling Cheerleaders
Debate & Individual Events Team
Girls' Basketball Team
Girls' Basketball Cheerleaders
Boys' Basketball Team
Boys' Basketball Cheerleaders
All-State Band
Vocal Solo-Ensemble Group*
Band Solo-Ensemble Group*
Orchestra Solo-Ensemble Group*
Visual Arts

SPRING ACTIVITIES

All-State Jazz Band
Boys' Tennis Team
Boys' Golf Team
Girls' Golf Team
Boys' Track Team
Girls' Track Team
Large Group Chorus
Large Group Band
Large Group Orchestra
Student Council (April 1st)
Yearbook Staff (May 15th)
Newspaper Staff (May 15th)

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