



"Every child, every chance, every day."

# Santa Barbara Unified School District

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**Athletics Inclusion Plan Update-** The attached plan was presented to the Board on 8/27/13. The Board recommended we solicit additional feedback from parents/families.

Parent feedback was received at the following meetings:

1. Staff Special Education Parent Advisory Committee (SSEPAC) meeting on 10/14/13. This meeting included parent representatives from most school sites.
2. Two parent training sessions held on 11/25/13.

Based on the feedback we received we are recommending the following revisions:

- *Regarding Goal 1: Create a communication system for athletic team tryouts that is equitable.* Under the column listing participants we should also include academic counselors and P.E. teachers. Parents brought up the concern that P.E. teachers sometimes recruit or encourage students to go out for sports. P.E. teachers might encourage a wider range of students (i.e. students with disabilities) for sports if they are aware these students can participate with accommodations. Also, academic counselors need to be aware of tryout dates as they do the students' schedules.
- *Regarding Goal #2: Develop a common rubric or criteria for athletic team tryouts and participation.* Some parents expressed a general concern that by creating a rubric or criteria for participating on a team, schools will actually be discouraging participation from students with a wide-range of abilities. To clarify this section, we recommend clarifying that the rubrics/criteria are developed to determine the skills required for students to participate *safely* in a given sport.

Additionally several parents brought up the concern that a student with a disability may have difficulty meeting the 2.0 GPA requirement to participate in sports. The position of the District on this issue is that when students with disabilities are failing their classes, IEP/504 meetings should be held to address the reason for the low marks and make adjustments to their IEP/504 plan if needed. Therefore we do not recommend an alteration to GPA requirements for participation on sport teams be included in this plan.