



Louisville Public Schools Conversation on Spring Sports Opportunities

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DATA -

Student interest surveys provided to our students indicate the following:

Sustainability and student interest.

<u>School Year</u>	<u>Interest in Baseball</u>	<u>Interest in Boys Golf</u>
Spring 2022	23	20
Spring 2023	31	21
Spring 2024	29	20
Spring 2025	38	25

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Data Continued

Pertaining to baseball and golf, the information below provides an extended look at both sustainability and student interest by grade for students in grades 6-12.

<u>Current Grade</u>	<u>Graduating Class</u>	<u>Student Interest in Baseball</u>	<u>Student interest in Boys Golf</u>
6	2028	12	6
7	2027	6	6
8	2026	12	1
9	2025	8	5
10	2024	3	9
11	2023	8	5
12	2022	4	1

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Data - Loss to track

Data below indicates the total number of anticipated students who would leave track to participate in only baseball or golf.

Throughout this process, LHS has discovered that approximately 10 - 12 student athletes would engage in baseball, that are not currently engaged in a spring sport. For boys golf we discovered that 3 - 4 athletes would engage in boys golf that are not currently engaged in a Spring sport.

<u>School year</u>	<u>Baseball</u>	<u>Golf</u>
2022	9	10
2023	11	11
2024	13	14
2025	10	9

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Expense of programming

The following shows the projected expense of each sport for year one and beyond. Variables include: Coaching, equipment, transportation, substitute costs, umpires, tournaments.

- It is important to note that baseball could be reduced due to a co-op as well as the revenue provided through event sales.

<u>Sport</u>	<u>Year 1</u>	<u>Year 2 and beyond</u>
Baseball	\$20,000 - 23,000	\$15,000 - 17,000
Golf	\$18,500 - 22,000	\$12,000 - 15,000

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Additional thoughts

Tenant	Baseball	Golf
Facility Availability	Yes City Ballfield	Grandpa's Woods/Quarry Oaks 12-15 mile radius
Personnel Availability	Yes Coaches available	Yes Coaches available
Youth - Feeder Program	Yes Strong Youth Program	No However, students can engage in youth golf
Proximity of competition	Reasonably close Includes conference competition	Reasonably Close Includes conference competition

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Title IX Compliance - Proportionality

The First Prong examines the percentage of athletic “participation opportunities” for each sex and then compares that percentage to that sex’s percentage of the overall student enrollment.

Due to the addition of girls wrestling and the lack of participation of boys in fall sports, for the 2021 - 2022 school year, the district has shifted to a underrepresentation in Boys sports opportunities.

School Year	Enrollment		Athletic Opportunities		Proportionality		Additional Ath. Opps. to Meet Exact Proportionality
	Boys %	Girls %	Boys %	Girls %	Boys Δ%	Girls Δ%	
2021-22	55.4	44.6	52.7	47.3	-2.8	2.8	12.9 for Boys

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Prong 2 - Expansion Opportunities

Equal expansion of opportunities for both male and female students.

The district has shown a positive history to adding opportunities for both genders.

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Prong 3 - Accommodating interests

As provided by the data, the largest interest at LPS is currently baseball, followed by boys golf, girls soccer and girls golf.

Year	Total student responses	Baseball interest Total Students	Boys Golf interest Total Students	Boys interest in track
Spring 2020	106	39	6	25 * Covid year estimate
Spring 2021	65	16	12	23 * actual number
Fall 2021	153	54	32	36 *survey of 6th through 12th grade

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2021-22	55.4	44.6	55.3	44.7	-0.2	0.2	0.9 for Boys

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	Boys %	Girls %	Boys %	Girls %	Boys Δ%	Girls Δ%	
2021-22	55.4	44.6	52.7	47.3	-2.8	2.8	12.9 for Boys

		BOYS SPORT ADDED		
		None	Baseball	Boys Golf
GIRLS SPORT ADDED	None	-2.8% Boys	-0.2% Boys	-2.8% Boys
	Girls Golf	-3.5% Boys	-0.9% Boys	-3.5% Boys
	Girls Soccer	-5.0% Boys	-2.4% Boys	-5.0% Boys

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Recommendation Considerations - Pros

Baseball	Golf
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It allows LPS to accommodate the primary interest as discussed in title IX - baseball it is the primary sport that our male student athletes have requested. Regarding Title IX - baseball reduces the underrepresentation of boys significantly. (to -.9 for boys) Looking at sustainability, baseball has the highest interest over the next 6 years. Coaching is not an issue, with experience on our staff. Strong youth program to support sustainability - Successful Summer programming. Excellent facilities within the district. Multiple competitions within 50 miles. Baseball offers an opportunity for revenue and cost adjustment with a possible coop. It potentially adds 12 additional students to the roster that are currently not engaged in a Spring Sport. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Limits participation to 10 athletes - allows us to closely monitor title IX as numbers fluctuate, potentially limits the number of track athletes lost to golf. The sport could potentially see an increase of 3-4 students who are not participating in a spring sport. Growing interest Multiple competitions within 50 miles. Coaching is not an issue, with experience on our staff. Female Athletes can participate in Boys Golf.

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Recommendation Considerations - Cons

Baseball	Golf
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Scheduling for years 1-3 Revenue Development for years 1-3 Coop Development NSAA Pitching limitations Removal of students from the track program Overlap of winter sports with pitcher / catchers Maintains the 2nd and 3rd prong of title IX but could have an effect on proportionality Funding 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Scheduling for years 1-2 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Finding Duals, Tri's, Quads Reducing to 10 athletes Facility availability and expense Removal of students from the track program Title IX - prong 3 (student interest) and 1 (proportionality) No Louisville Feeder program Funding

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Final Recommendation

After research and further consideration, the LHS administration makes a recommendation to implement a baseball program, starting in the Spring of 2023. As discussed, this approach and implementation allows the district time to establish an effective budget, hire coaches, purchase uniforms and equipment, determine if a co-op is needed, or if class C baseball is approved. Additionally, based on the survey, baseball better levels out the Title IX proportionality and need of students with our current numbers.

Moving forward, the administration suggests monitoring Title IX compliance and continued student interest surveys. If compliance is reasonable, and interest is present, the district should consider the addition of Boys golf, understanding that another girls sport may be required in the future as well.

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FFA

The administration looked into the probability of FFA. Due to the expense, we are working with another area district to potentially implement an FFA program in the future.

Program expansion was approximately \$140,000 - \$160,000 for LPS to start and house the program. The largest concern was locating an instructor, as there is limited personnel available.

The district currently does not have space for FFA courses.

It is important to note that LPS has a SKILLS organization that is in the top 25 of the nation and offers our students quality vocational experiences.

LHS has started to offer AG based courses through engineering. We believe there are additional options for AG experiences that we will explore.

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