**What is the SCORE Program?**

In the winter of the 2016-17 school year, the SCORE program launched and is now the official interscholastic athletic league for Chicago Public Schools offered to 5th through 8th grade students. The district will leverage public-private partnerships to provide coaches, equipment, uniforms, officials and security to each participating elementary school.

**Program Objectives**

* **Improve academic performance**: Support academic achievement by capitalizing on the benefits that participation in athletics provides student-athletes, such as improving student attendance and behavior as well as expanding social experiences for students to develop life skills.
* **Increase athletic participation:** Provide a safe and structured sports experience for *all* 5th-8th grade elementary school students who want to participate on a team. Afford all interested students the opportunity to work with coaches to develop athletic skills and cultivate positive values.
* **Strengthen communities:** Create conferences of neighboring elementary schools and use local high schools, stadiums, and area Chicago Park District facilities for weekend games to create a safe community social center that attracts the entire family, promotes stronger linkages between elementary and high schools and increases parent/guardian involvement.

**Guiding Principles**

**Inclusive Model**

The program will provide all interested 5-8th grade students the opportunity to participate and practice. There will be no-cuts or tryouts to join teams, but rather multiple teams will be established to accommodate student interest (with approval from the principal and the Office of Sports Administration). A guaranteed participation time requirement will support this key tenant to ensure all team members have the opportunity to participate and play.

**Community-Centric**

The Elementary School Sports Program will use conferences to foster a sense of community between elementary schools that are geographically near each other. Contests will be held at neighborhood high schools, stadiums, or local parks on weekends to drive engagement and involvement. Host high schools will be encouraged to create a social center at their facilities on Saturdays by showcasing their school and involving other community organizations. High school students, family and community members will be encouraged to volunteer as game day staff.

**Expanded Public-Private Partnerships**

The program will leverage a public-private partnership model that promotes collaboration between CPS and alumni, sister agencies, sports organizations and the corporate community to facilitate the implementation, administration and funding of the program and allow CPS to keep tax dollars in the classroom.

**History**

Through the new Elementary School Sports Program, CPS seeks to lead a cultural shift in how the district thinks about athletic programming. 2015-2016 data shows that only 10% of elementary students in our district participated in school sports. Enthusiastic students were cut from teams as young as age 11. The Elementary School Sports Program is meant to counter the negative impact budget challenges have had on elementary athletics and maximize afterschool offerings for CPS youth.

The program was successfully piloted in the 2015-16 school year. Community-based conferences for league play were established in three networks. During the pilot, CPS 5th-8th graders across the city played basketball and soccer with dedicated coaches and, on weekends, students and families came together for games at their neighborhood high schools and local parks. The pilot engaged high school students as coaches, scoreboard operators and scorekeepers, leveraged the Chicago Park District to provide extra facilities, and included extra activities on game days such as career fairs and performances by local musicians.

|  |
| --- |
| **SY 2015-16 Pilot Participants:** |
| **Elementary Schools** | Beasley, Canty, Carnegie, Castellanos, Corkery, Gary, Hendricks, Hitch, Kanoon, Palmer, Ray, Reavis, Saucedo, Smyser, Solomon, Spry, Taft, Telpochcalli, Till |
| **High Schools and Parks** | Dunbar High School, La Villita Park, Taft High School |

In addition to the pilot, the Office of Sports Administration conducted a benchmarking study amongst large urban districts nationwide to learn about how other districts administer elementary sports and incorporated best practices into the new program model.

**Facts**

* **Sports:** Basketball, Cross Country, Floor Hockey, Soccer, Spirit/Cheer, Track, Volleyball
* **Seasons:** Fall, Winter, Spring
* **Regular Season Length:** 5-7 weeks
* **Practices:** At least2 times per week, before or after school Monday - Friday at elementary school
* **Contests:** 1 game/meet per week, Saturdays at designated Conference High School, stadium, or nearby park
* **Eligibility:** 5th-8th grade students who have met the district’s physical examination requirement, age requirements; academic, attendance, and behavior requirements are set by each school’s principal

**Contact Information**

Send questions to the Office of Sports Administration at sportsad@cps.edu.

I give my permission for \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_print student name\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_to participate in the CPS SCORE program. I understand and accept all risks inherent in participating in an CPS SCORE program.

I release, relieve, discharge, and hold harmless the Board of Education of the City of Chicago (Board), its officers, Board members, employees, agents and representatives, from any and all liability or claim of liability, whether for personal injury, property damage, or otherwise, arising out of or in connection with the CPS SCORE program.

I further release, relieve, discharge, indemnify and hold harmless the Chicago Park District, its officers, Board members, employees, agents and representatives, from any and all liability or claim of liability, whether for personal injury, property damage, or otherwise, arising out of or in connection with the CPS SCORE program

I authorize program personnel, including Board employees, Chicago Park District staff, volunteers, or chaperones to act for me in any emergency, accident or illness involving my child. I further agree that the Board and its employees, volunteers, chaperones, program personnel, as well as the Chicago Park District and its employees, are released from any and all liability or claims for taking such action.

I assume full responsibility to provide adult supervision during my child’s walk to commute to and from the conference participation site.

I assume full responsibility for the actions of my student while participating in the CPS SCORE program.

I confirm that my child meets CPS’ Physical Examination requirement and has proof of a current Physical Examination on file at the school.

I affirm that my child has no chronic medical, physical or mental condition or disability which has not been stated in the medical certificate or which could make participation in the CPS SCORE program inadvisable.

I may revoke this permission in writing only.

I affirm that I have read this Parental Consent and Release of Liability in its entirety, that I understand each of the terms hereof, and that I agree to be fully bound hereby.

**Parent/Guardian Name** **(print)** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Parent/Guardian Name** **(signature)** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Date**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**I give my permission for \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_print student name\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to commute to and from the contest location without adult supervision.**

**Parent/Guardian Name (signature) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Chicago Public Schools’ Office of Sports Administration is pleased to open student registration for the CPS SCORE Program– the official interscholastic league play for CPS 5th – 8th grade athletics. *Registration forms to sign up by Friday, March 10, 2017 are included in this packet.* The spring sports offered are Boys and Girls Track and Field and Girls Soccer. Practices should occur 2 times per week at your child’s school starting the week of April 3rd for Soccer and April 17th for Track and Field. The first Soccer game will occur on Saturday, April 22nd and the first Track and Field meet will occur on Saturday, May 30th; conference and regional assignment locations will be determined.

In order to increase athletic participation across the district, the program will follow an inclusive model. There will be no cuts or tryouts to join teams, but rather multiple teams will be established to accommodate student interest when deemed necessary and with approval from the principal.

The CPS SCORE Program will use a conference/region structure to foster a sense of community between elementary schools that are geographically near one another. Games/meets will take place on weekends with the hope that it will be easier for family and friends to transport children, attend games and take part in game day activities. Most games/meets will be hosted by neighborhood high schools, Chicago Park District sites, and stadiums. This model provides students and families an opportunity to get to know their neighborhood schools and ease the elementary to high school transition.

To help deliver the expanded program, CPS is partnering with the Chicago Park District. The Chicago Park District will provide staff to coach teams and officiate contests. The Park District will also provide additional facilities to accommodate the anticipated volume of students and program size.

As always, parents and guardians are encouraged to get involved in the program. Information enclosed will include the process to become a coach and/or game day volunteer (e.g., timekeeper).

Enclosed in this packet, you will find the following forms and information:

* Student Information Form
* Consent and Release Form
* CPS SCORE Program Overview
* Important Dates for Spring 2017

Please review the packet carefully. If you choose to register your student, fill out the two forms completely and accurately. Registration and consent forms must be received by your child’s school ***no later than*** ***Friday March 10, 2017*** if your child wants to participate in spring sports. Following registration, more detailed information will be sent home including instructions for getting involved as a coach or game day staff, game/practice schedules, team rosters, and your child’s coach’s contact information. If you have any questions, please contact your school’s Elementary School Liaison, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ at \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

For more information, please visit our website at [www.cps.edu/cpsscore](http://www.cps.edu/cpsscore) for schedules, updates, contest location, and etc. Sincerely,

Randy Ernst

Executive Director, Office of Sports Administration

**Student Registration Opens…………………………………………………………………………..February 9, 2017**

**Student Registration Closes……………………………………………………………………………..March 13, 2017**

**First Week of Practice for Soccer and Floor Hockey……………………….April 3, 2017 – April 7, 2017**

**First Week of Practice for Track and Field…………………………………..April 17, 2017 – April 21, 2017**

**Regular Season Game Dates for Soccer and Field Hockey**

* ***April 22, 2017***
* ***April 29, 2017***
* ***May 6, 2017***
* ***May 13, 2017***
* ***May 20, 2017***

**Post-Season/Playoff Dates (7/8th Division only)**

* ***Conference Final Four June 3, 2017***
* ***Conference Championships June 10, 2017***

**Season Meet Dates for Track and Field**

* ***Regional Practice Meets May 13, 2017***
* ***Regional Open Meets May 20, 2017 (Final season meet for 5/6th Division)***
* ***Regional Qualifying Meets June 3, 2017***
* ***City Championship Meet June 10, 2017***

***\*Depending on the number of students that register, some games may take place on alternative dates. A detailed game schedule will be sent home and published after registration closes.***