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**SECTION 3.21 ATHLETIC PROGRAM**

It is the policy of the District that the athletic program be conducted as an integral part of the total curriculum of the schools and contributes to student growth and development in ways that are educationally sound.

Students will receive instructional activities appropriate to their development, and athletics will be a carefully planned segment of the school experience. The overall educational growth and development of students will be paramount as total athletic experiences are planned. Students participating in athletics will experience activities and instruction in lifelong sports and will develop an understanding of the beneficial aspects of an ongoing program of physical activity. These experiences will be made available to students without pressure from school personnel to specialize in any one sport.

The goal of the District is to provide an atmosphere for the development of excellence and balance in all phases of the athletic program for all students. The overall goal of the athletic program will be essentially the same as for physical education. The Physical Education Framework for California Public Schools, adopted by the State Board of Education and made a part of this section, lists the following goals:

1. Development of motor skills.
2. Development and maintenance of physical fitness.
3. Development of self-awareness.
4. Development of socially desirable behavior.
5. Development of recreation skills.

The athletic program of the District will be conducted by school personnel under the direction of school administrators. The program will adhere to laws, policies, and rules of leadership which will place the realization of the previously stated values above all considerations. To be of maximum value to the student, the athletic program will adhere to the following athletic principles:

1. Be a well-coordinated part of the total school curriculum.
2. Be based on the spirit of amateurism.
3. Seek to provide the opportunity for students to participate in a wide variety of sports throughout the school year.
4. Foster training in conduct, game ethics, and sportsmanship on the part of student athletes, coaches, and fans.
5. Seek to provide opportunities for participants to develop their athletic skills and abilities so that they may compete for academic and athletic scholarships as well as entrance into various aspects of the athletic world.

6. Strive for successful athletic teams in all sports with the understanding that success is defined by dedication and maximum effort of all individuals and not by the season's win-loss record.
7. Foster positive school and community attitudes and spirit.
8. Be based on non-specialization.
9. Be based on equality of opportunity for all students.
10. Seek to develop optimal states of mental and physical health among participants.
11. Seek to alert youth to a regimen of lifelong physical fitness.