

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF ADAPTED SPORTS PROGRAMS



WHO IS AAASP?

The American Association of Adapted Sports Programs, Inc. (AAASP) is a 501c3 organization that provides services to Local Education Agencies, State High School Associations and State Departments of Education in extracurricular adapted athletics for physically disabled children attending grades 1-12 to improve their well-being while positively influencing total student development. The AAASP model has been in place since 1996, and ensures disabled students the opportunity to experience the benefits of school sport competition just as their non-disabled peers do.

HOW DOES THE PROGRAM WORK?

AAASP partners with State High School Athletic Associations and schools across the United States to provide opportunities for students with physical disabilities to participate in team sports which are offered during the school year with wheelchair team handball provided in the fall season, wheelchair basketball during the winter season, and wheelchair football and wheelchair track and field during the spring season. All students participate in a wheelchair, whether they use one on a daily basis or not. This helps level the playing field and engages more students with physical disabilities in athletics. Players learn basic fundamental sports skills in the fall that they build upon and translate to other sports throughout the school year.

LEGAL

On January 24, 2013 the Office of Civil Rights issued a Dear Colleague letter clarifying schools' obligations under the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 to provide extracurricular athletic opportunities to students with disabilities. This Dear Colleague letter provides a clear roadmap for interpreting the guidance so that schools can better integrate students with disabilities into mainstream athletic programs — and create adapted programs for students with disabilities.*

BENEFITS

The benefits of athletic and physical education programs are equally important for students with disabilities as they are for all students. Participating in physical activities helps reduce obesity and prevent health problems such as, heart disease, breast cancer, and debilitating stress-related illnesses like depression. Individuals with disabilities who participate in sports have higher self-esteem, better body images, and higher rates of academic success; and are more likely to graduate from high school and matriculate in college; and experience greater success and more options.*

* Active Policy Solutions: Q and A: Disability in Sport Dear Colleague Letter

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MISSION

AAASP's mission is to develop and support a standardized structure for school-based athletic competition to improve the well being of students with physical disabilities.

VISION

AAASP envisions a society where all children with physical disabilities can experience the rewards and satisfaction of competitive school-based sports.

WHO TO CONTACT:

For more information on how to get involved with AAASP, contact Co-Founders Bev Vaughn or Tommie Storms at 404-294-0070 or sports@adaptedsports.org.

Learn more about AAASP

www.adaptedsports.org



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