



WARREN COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT

CENTRAL ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES
6820 MARKET STREET
RUSSELL PA 16345-3406

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SUPERINTENDENT

FAQ REGARDING YOUNGSVILLE HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL

1. Why is the Warren County School District looking at the Youngsville High School (YHS) football program?
 - At the end of November, the District 10 Athletic Committee asked the Warren County School District (WCSD) administration to investigate the YHS football program with regard to their two cancellations against Farrell and West Middlesex during the 2016 season.
2. When does the Warren County School District need to provide a report to District 10?
 - District Athletic Director, Rick Gignac, had to report back to District 10 on February 1, 2017.
3. What was the conclusion of the investigation?
 - Publicly, YHS cited that the cancellations were due to low numbers, injuries, illness, school related confidential issues and the fact that they had too many inexperienced varsity players that were not ready to compete at the varsity level. Additionally, the investigation revealed the decision makers were concerned about many of the available players from a safety perspective, due to their experience and ability level.
4. Does the Board have policy regarding how to address a safety concern with a team?
 - Yes. Policy 10465 on Student Participation addresses this in the policy:

“In the event that a school desires to eliminate an athletic team or marching band for any reason, other than due to the fact the minimum participation level is not met, the matter shall be presented to the Board for a decision as to whether the athletic team or marching band will be eliminated or sustained. In the event that the Board approves the elimination of an athletic team or marching band, the athletic team or marching band shall only be reinstated upon Board approval of the proposed reinstatement.”

The Warren County School District does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability or age in its programs, activities or employment practices and provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups. Inquiries may be directed to Mr. Gary Weber, Title IX/Section 504 Coordinator at 6820 Market Street, Russell, PA 16345 or (814) 723-6900.

5. Are there different “levels” of football offered throughout the District to provide opportunities for new players to become more experienced?
- All WCSD schools have enough players to provide multiple levels. Both Warren and Eisenhower have three levels of football. They offer junior high for grades 7 and 8 (it is important to note, that depending on numbers, sometimes the junior high can be split into 7th and 8th grade teams as well). They also offer junior varsity and varsity for grades 9 through 12. Youngsville and Sheffield have two levels of football. They offer junior high for grades 7 and 8. All students at Youngsville and Sheffield in grades 9 through 12 play at the varsity level. Youngsville and Sheffield do not have enough players to offer the junior varsity program at this time, but they have in the past. With enough participation, a school could also offer an additional option, 9th grade football. In an ideal situation, students would progress from junior high football, to 9th grade football, to junior varsity to varsity.
6. Are the participation numbers at YHS unusually low this year?
- Overall participation percentages by boys in ALL fall athletics from 2010 to present are shown in the chart below. This includes football, cross country, soccer and golf. The percentages at YHS are consistently lower than other schools in the district.

Boys				
		# of Male Students	Participation %	# of Participants
YHS	2010-2011	184	28%	52
	2011-2012	168	24%	41
	2012-2013	157	28%	44
	2013-2014	149		
	2014-2015	144	22%	31
	2015-2016	146	27%	39
	2016-2017	147	22%	32
	Season Average		25%	40
	Overall Average	156.429	23%	

7. Specifically, what do YHS football numbers look like over the same time period?

YHS	2010-2011	2011-2012	2012-2013	2013-2014	2014-2015	2015-2016	2016-2017
Football Varsity	38	30	35		27	37	26

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8. What do the junior high football numbers look like over the same time period?

Junior High							
Fall	2010-2011	2011-2012	2012-2013	2013-2014	2014-2015	2015-2016	2016-2017
Football 7/8	19	14	18		23	21	17

9. I am seeing information about schools actively try to recruit new players to play football. Is it appropriate to have students enter a varsity high school football program with no experience?

- Inexperienced players should play with and against other inexperienced players in a 9th grade or junior varsity program more focused on skill development. Some very athletic students can hold their own entering at the varsity level, but those situations are rare.

10. Is the number of students signed up right now a reliable indicator of how many students would be ready in uniform next fall?

- As a result of the investigation, the District is aware there is a disconnect between the reported 10 day numbers for YHS football and the number of participants who paid over the last two seasons. Now that the season is complete, District records show a lower number than YHS reported on their 10 day numbers. It is difficult to have confidence in a sign up number, particularly in football at this point in the year.

11. Are the middle school numbers an indicator of high school numbers down the road?

- Using the 2015-16 and 2016-17 school years as an example, participation tends to decrease in high school.

	12th Gr.	11th Gr.	10th Gr.	9th Gr.	8th Gr.	7th Gr.
17-18		5	8	10	11	8
16-17	8	5	5	9	10	11
15-16	3	5	8	7	9	10

12. Why is the proposed co-op with Warren and not Eisenhower?

- PIAA regulates classifications on a two-year cycle. D10 used this in the calculation of student counts with Eisenhower and Warren as potential hosts for a cooperative agreement. A cooperative agreement between Youngsville and Eisenhower would move Eisenhower to a higher classification, and this is not permissible in the middle of a cycle. A cooperative agreement between Youngsville and Warren does not change their classification, therefore, it is permissible at this time.

13. Would a cooperative agreement for football have Title IX implications at Youngsville High School?

- If a cooperative agreement is in place for students to participate in the sport of football, there will be no Title IX issues, so no female sports would be impacted.

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