

RESOLUTION ON IMPROVING THE PSAL SYSTEM IN NYC FOR GREATER TRANSPARENCY,
ACCESS AND SUPPORT OF STUDENT NEEDS

2024-2025 Panel for Educational Policy

Meeting Consideration:

30 April 2025

Introduction Date:

8 April 2025

Sponsorship:

Panel Member, Camille Casaretti

Panel Member, Shirley Aubin

FINAL RESOLUTION

This resolution aims to strengthen the PSAL system, promote transparency, and ensure that every student has an equal opportunity to thrive through sports and extracurricular activities within New York City's public schools.

WHEREAS, competitive, extramural sports play a crucial role in the physical, social, and emotional development of students across New York City by providing them with access to extracurricular sports programs;

WHEREAS, the Public Schools Athletic League (PSAL) coordinates competitions for 25 sports for over 45,000 students from over 400 schools in New York City;

WHEREAS, the mission of PSAL is “to provide opportunities for educating students in physical fitness, character development and socialization skills through an athletic program that fosters teamwork, discipline and sportsmanship;”

WHEREAS, many Black and Latinx students and their families have expressed concerns that the process for applying to PSAL does not adequately meet the evolving needs of children in the NYC public school system, particularly regarding accessibility, communication, and transparency;

WHEREAS, the lawsuit, *Moises Jimenez et al. v. New York City Department of Education et al.* Index No. 155825/2018, was filed by a group of Black and Latinx students who attend NYC Department of Education high schools. They wanted greater opportunities to play after-school sports and believed that the PSAL needed to change its policies and practices to make this happen;

WHEREAS, in 2022, NYC Public Schools agreed to a settlement in which they would:

- a) *Expand the Shared Access Programs, or “SAPs,” (add a minimum of 200 new PSAL teams total by Spring semester 2024) to specified school districts that have the lowest citywide average access to PSAL sports teams, and;*
- b) *Add a minimum of five teams in each of the 2021-2022, 2022-2023, and 2023-2024 school years to specified individual DOE high schools. They will target those high schools with the fewest PSAL sports teams that, for geographic or other reasons, cannot participate in a SAP;*
- c) *Hire six full-time Athletic Director Coordinators and one Scheduler to oversee these new sports programs; and*
- d) *Create a system that students and parents can use to provide “real time” comments on how the new sports programs are going.*

WHEREAS, to have access to their desired sports teams, many NYC high school students must travel to nearby schools,

WHEREAS, PSAL existence as a ruling organization for all Sports issues in NYC Public High Schools is often unknown to a majority of students, guardians and families in the NYC public schools because schools are responsible for distributing information to students and families;

WHEREAS, PSAL deadlines, timelines, tryout schedules and important updates are unclear, leading to confusion and missed opportunities for students and families;

WHEREAS, greater transparency regarding timelines, deadlines, and program details would enable families to make more informed decisions about their children's participation in PSAL activities, ensuring that all students have equitable access to these opportunities;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the PSAL system in New York City should implement significant changes to improve the way it communicates with schools about programs, deadlines, and timelines;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the PSAL website be updated to clearly outline all important deadlines, timelines, and program information, with an accessible calendar for upcoming events, tryouts, and registration deadlines;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that schools will inform students, parents and guardians about which teams are available in their schools and in nearby schools, important deadlines, updates, or changes to PSAL programs and events, ensuring timely communication;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that NYC Public Schools should work to better assess and meet the needs of students, especially Black and Latinx students, by engaging with parents, guardians, and school administrators to collect feedback and make necessary improvements to the programs it offers;

AND, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the NYC Public Schools provide the resources and support needed to implement these changes effectively, ensuring that the PSAL system is more transparent, responsive, and accessible for all students and their families.

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