



The State of Iowa recently enacted **House File 2591 (HF 2591)**, which allows eligible eighth-grade students to participate in high school athletics. With this new legislation, our school has carefully considered how to implement the law in a manner that best serves our student-athletes and the mission of St. Edmond Catholic School.

The following policy has been approved by the St. Edmond Catholic School Board regarding eighth-grade participation in high school athletics:

St. Edmond Catholic School will adhere to the State of Iowa's legislation (HF 2591) regarding eighth-grade participation in high school athletics. Eligible eighth-grade students may be considered for participation on high school teams on a case-by-case basis.

While this legislation provides schools with the opportunity to allow eighth-grade participation, St. Edmond will not implement a blanket policy that automatically places eighth-grade students on high school teams. Instead, the process will start with a recommendation from the varsity head coach. Each head coach may have his/her own procedures for evaluation. We believe that participation at the high school level should be reserved for situations where it is developmentally appropriate and beneficial for both the individual student and the program. Decisions will be made through a thoughtful review process that considers factors such as athletic readiness, emotional and social maturity, program needs, safety, and the student's overall educational experience.

To provide clarity and consistency, we have established [8th Grade Participation Guidelines](#) that will be followed when considering eighth-grade participation in high school athletics; the guidelines outline the process and expectations for students and families.

We appreciate your support and understanding as we implement this new legislation. Our goal is to make decisions that reflect our commitment to excellence while maintaining the integrity of our athletic programs and providing the best possible experience for all St. Edmond student-athletes. We encourage all families to review the [HF2591 Frequently Asked Questions](#) document developed by the IHSA and IGHSAU; this resource helps address many common questions.

Thank you for your continued support of St. Edmond Catholic School and Gael Athletics.

Go Gaels!

David Flattery
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St. Edmond Catholic School