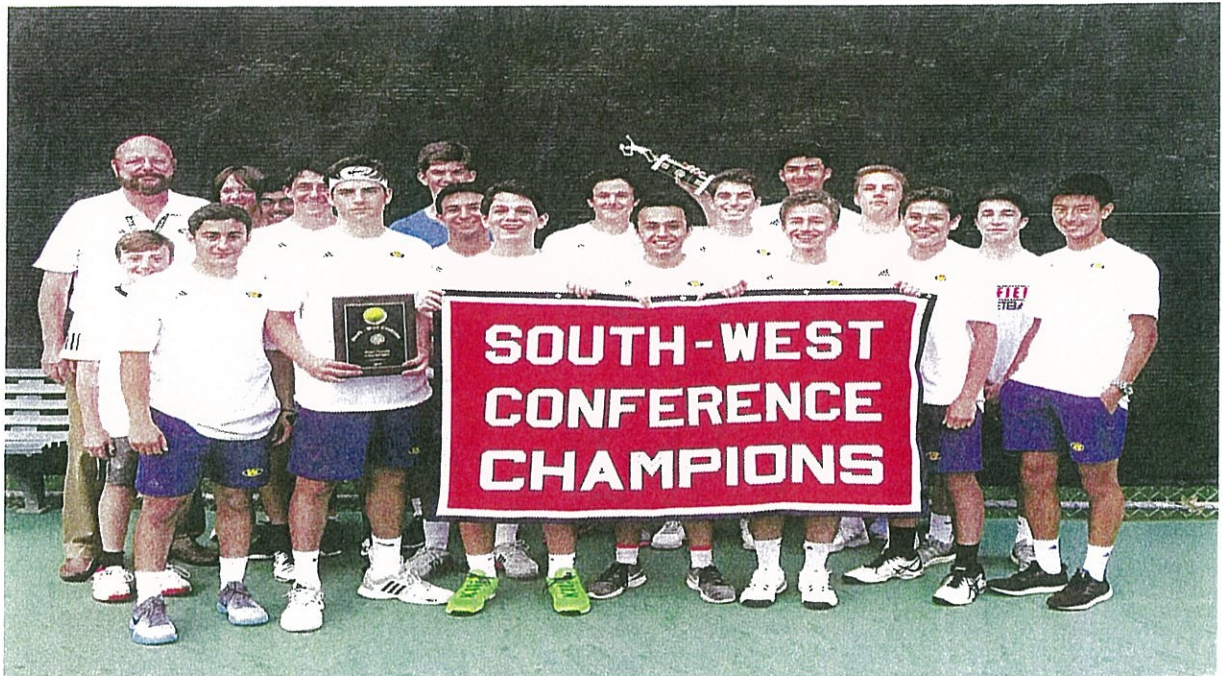




Athletics



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ATHLETICS

The Weston High School Interscholastic Athletics Program is an integral part of the school's total educational program. Interscholastic competition provides students with the opportunity to grow physically, mentally and emotionally as individuals, but also as members of their school and community. Recent analysis in the education media speaks to the importance of school athletics:

Research conducted during the past decades shows that sports participation grants student-athletes opportunities to develop skills that are not limited to physical development. Such examples include overcoming adversity and failure, discovering the courage to acquire a new skill and growing one's confidence. (*National Federation of High School's High School Today*, pg. 49 May 2018.)

The FY 20 Weston High School athletic budget has been developed to support a diversified interscholastic program of 62 teams. Students have the option of participating on 30 varsity, 27 junior varsity and five freshmen teams. The Weston High School athletic program offers a wide variety of team and individual sports to support student skills and interests. This philosophy has led to a high degree of student participation with approximately 70% of our students participating in at least one sport last school year. It is anticipated that 922 student/athletes will participate in the program next year.

The program has strong community support and has annually received statewide recognition for overall program excellence. Twice in seven years we earned the Overall State Award, and the Weston High School Athletic Department was named the "Most Exemplary, Outstanding Athletic Department in the state of CT" by the Connecticut Interscholastic Athletic Conference (CIAC). (The CIAC has now done away with this overall award.)

In building the proposed budget, every effort has been made to deliver the same level of excellence to the student/athletes while also keeping the cost of our athletic program down. The athletic program budget is significantly enhanced by funding from sources outside the Board of Education budget, including the use of gate receipts (approximately \$16,000 annually), Weston Boosters Club (approximately \$30,000 annually), the Gridiron Club (approximately \$10,000 annually), and the Diamond Club (approximately \$5,000). In addition, Weston levies a user fee for athletes. The proposed budget has been developed using the assumption that the participation fee will remain \$100 per athlete per season with a \$400 family cap. Twenty percent of the participation fee does not directly assist the Athletic Budget (\$10 to Turf Replacement and \$10 to Athletic Facilities).

A total of 72 coaching positions are necessary to operate the 60 teams. We have been gradually adding assistant varsity coaching positions for the past seven years. Two new assistant varsity coaching positions are included in this year's proposed budget (FY 2020). We are hopeful that these positions remain in the budget this year as they have been cut in the past and are important to continue to provide a safe, educationally sound environment for our student-athletes.

Athletics
Weston Public Schools, Weston, CT

2018-2019 Actual				2019-2020 Projected			
Operating Budget FTE	Other Sources FTE	Total FTE	Program	Operating Budget FTE	Other Sources FTE	Total FTE	Change
Certified Staff							
1.00	0.00	1.00	Athletic Director	1.00	0.00	1.00	0.00
Non Certified Staff							
1.00	0.00	1.00	Administrative Assistant	0.93	0.00	0.93	-0.07
1.00	0.00	1.00		0.93	0.00	0.93	-0.07