



NEWS RELEASE

December 6, 2011

IHSAA ANNOUNCES TOWN MEETING SERIES

Topic: Non-Traditional Student Participation at IHSAA Member Schools.

Commissioner Bobby Cox has announced the first installment of IHSAA town meeting series events to be held in member schools this winter. The topic of the initial town meetings will be "Non-Traditional Student Participation in IHSAA Member Schools." The public is invited and encouraged to attend these informative meetings to learn of pertinent educational topics and their intricate relationship to interscholastic athletics. The schedule for the first series of meetings may be found below:

Day and Date	Location	Local Time
Thursday, December 8, 2011	Crawfordsville H.S.	7:00 p.m. ET
Monday, December 12, 2011	Muncie Central H.S.	7:00 p.m. ET
Monday, January 9, 2012	Seymour H.S.	7:00 p.m. ET
Tuesday, January 10, 2012	Valparaiso H.S.	7:00 p.m. CT
Tuesday, January 17, 2012	Evansville Central H.S.	7:00 p.m. CT
Monday, January 23, 2012	Jimtown H.S.	7:00 p.m. ET

Recently, Indiana citizens have inquired about the potential for students in non-traditional schools (home schools, non-accredited schools and virtual schools) to participate in interscholastic athletics at public IHSAA member schools that serve their legal residence.

Nationwide, 27 states disallow non-traditional student participation at member schools while 21 states allow such involvement. Two states allow local school districts to make the determination.

The IHSAA was formed in 1903 with the purpose of encouraging, regulating and directing wholesome amateur interschool athletic competition between schools who are members of the Corporation. All such interschool athletic competitions regulated by this Corporation shall be subservient to and complimentary to the academic or curricular functions of the member school which are their primary purposes.

Contained within the by-laws of the corporation are standards that require students representing member schools in interschool athletic competitions to be enrolled and attending classes within the member school. The standard of attendance and enrollment is currently a minimum of 70% of the maximum number of classes offered at the member school in a typical school day. In certain special circumstances, a student may attend other institutions up to 50% of the school day and meet the requirement so long as the academic achievement attained in the non-member school meets the graduation requirements of the member school.

The IHSAA town meeting series is intended to provide Indiana citizens an opportunity to gain knowledge of pertinent topics and provide input and opinions if desired.