

EQUITY IN ATHLETICS

DESCRIPTION:

IECC believes that properly administered Intercollegiate Athletic programs play a very important role in achieving our mission. The diverse background and life experiences of our student athletes – many of which come from outside District 529 – greatly enrich the learning environment for our entire student body. Similarly, our sport programs are a source of both school and community pride as we celebrate the accomplishments and efforts of our student athletes. IECC desires to establish shared baselines (enrollment, funding) and goals (persistence, completion) across all four colleges to ensure our athletics programs are contributing to personal, academic, and athletic development.

ALIGNMENT:

Strategic Pillar 1.3	Emphasize welcoming and supporting campuses
Strategic Pillar 3.1	Manage Student Enrollment
Strategic Pillar 3.4	Strengthen Auxiliary Units

RATIONALE:

We believe a move toward equity in athletics will bring the following benefits to our students and the organization:

- A sustainable funding model that will allow IECC athletic teams to attract prospective students and compete for conference, regional and national titles.
- Enhance public perception of our athletic programs – and by extension – our four community colleges.
- Reduce the need for athletics to compete with other units (President's Office or Foundation) for fundraising in the local pool.
- Tying funding to performance (enrollment & academic) provides a tangible incentive for coaches to participate in institutional goals.
- Better forecast and allocate resources to support athletics.

TARGET:

This committee should include the College Presidents, with input solicited from the District Athletic Director, Admissions and Records, College Athletic Directors, and representation from selected athletic programs.

TIMELINE OF STRATEGIES:

The preliminary proposal should be complete by the end of the Fall 2022 term with a final document presented to the SEP in March 2023.