



1401 W. Valencia Drive
Fullerton, CA 92833
714-447-7480

For Immediate Release

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Fullerton School District's Performance Academy Sports Program is a Game-Changer for Advanced Student-Athletes in LA and the OC in Grades 6th through 8th



FSD's Performance Academy is the only public school program that offers an in-person learning school day with sports training integrated into the schedule.

(Fullerton, CA) - Fullerton School District (FSD) sits at the forefront of public school districts in Los Angeles and Orange County in meeting the needs of advanced student-athletes in grades 6 through 8 who are participating in elite-level sports training and competition. Offering a board-approved school program that will begin this fall for the 2024-25 school year, FSD's Performance Academy Sports Program will allow families with advanced student-athletes to have a traditional, free, in-person learning experience with time for sports training integrated into the school day. Families with students in qualifying sports training programs or competing on qualifying competitive teams, including dance, are encouraged to [apply for the program](#) before the district's June 22, 2024 application deadline.

What distinguishes this program from current academic programming for 6th through 8th grade student-athletes?

Fullerton School District's Performance Academy Sports Program is currently the only public school program in the area that gives students the opportunity to access a free in-person learning experience in Fullerton School District's award-winning public schools while having time built into their schedule for their sports training. In its inaugural year, this program will be offered at FSD's [Parks Junior High](#)

[School](#) for student-athletes in 7th and 8th grades and [Rolling Hills Elementary School](#) for student-athletes in 6th grade.

In their presentation to FSD's Board of Trustees during the district's April 16 board meeting, where the Performance Academy concept was initially presented for board consideration, Superintendent Dr. Bob Pletka and Dr. Adaina Brown, the district's Assistant Superintendent for Educational Services, shared that the program hopes to fill a need for families with gifted student-athletes who have limited schooling options for their student-athletes. Typically, these families have to opt to send their students to costly private schools, or they may have to place them in online learning programs that have little to no in-person engagement. As a result, students may miss out on the important social-emotional growth and whole-child development that happens with in-person learning. Additionally, Drs. Pletka and Brown noted another hope for this program: that families get more time at home in the evening together with sports training built into the school day. FSD's Performance Academy Sports Program gained board approval and the green light to begin this fall at FSD's May 21 board meeting.

How will FSD's Performance Academy Sports Program work?

The program is designed to allow students to start their day with a traditional in-person learning schedule and integrates sports training into the afternoon portion of the school day. For 7th and 8th grade students, students will have a five-period schedule that includes core classes and an elective, with the final two periods of the day used as a physical education period and an elective period that students will use to participate in their respective sports training. Similarly, 6th grade students in the program will have sports training time integrated into the afternoon part of their school day.

Another distinguishing feature of FSD's Performance Academy Sports Program is that it has several approved providers for sports training, including but not limited to Delta Prep Academy, KPOP Academy, Mather Dance, Procademy, Redline Athletics, and several more. To qualify to be an approved provider in this program, sports training programs and/or competition teams and team training need to have training sessions at least four times per week for at least 90 minutes each day, totaling 7.5 hours per week. The sports program also needs to have a daily conditioning component and training sessions that begin at least one period before the end of the school day.

Delta Prep Academy, a non-profit sports training program, is currently the only provider with a Memorandum of Understanding with FSD to provide some of its sports training opportunities on the Parks Junior High campus and guaranteed transportation from Parks Junior High to offsite training locations and back to Parks Junior High for convenient drop-off and pick-up for families. To participate in [Delta Prep's training program](#), with scholarships available for qualifying students, families can visit deltasportsgroup.org.

Fullerton School District is currently accepting applications for this program between now and June 22. Families will also have the opportunity to meet with the program's approved providers on June 6 at 5 p.m. at FSD's District Office, 1401 W. Valencia Dr., Fullerton.

For all current program information and details, visit www.fullertonsd.org/PerformanceAcademy.

The Fullerton School District is located in northern Orange County, California, and serves over 11,600 students in grades TK – 8th. The Fullerton School District includes 21 schools, 15 elementary schools, two K-8th grade schools, three middle schools, and a distance learning and home school model. The mission of the Fullerton School District is to work collaboratively with the community to provide an innovative, high-quality educational program for all students in a safe learning environment. The District motto, “Great Schools - Successful Kids” exemplifies the belief that all students will achieve academic excellence, acquire interpersonal skills, and develop technological expertise to contribute as productive citizens in a democratic society. For more information about the Fullerton School District’s award-winning schools, call (714) 447-7400 or visit www.fullertonsd.org.

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For more information, please feel free to contact Amber Muñoz/Public Information Officer, Fullerton School District at 657/706-3774 or amber_munos@myfsd.org