

## Voluntary Athletic Contributions

The Elk Grove Unified School District (EGUSD) has long been known for its excellent athletic programs. The district is proud of this reputation and recognizes that athletics support students' physical, social, and academic development. Unfortunately, due to the financial crisis in the State of California and the reduction of funding for public education, the district has been forced to cut over \$60 million from its 2010-11 budget, including more than \$900,000 to high school athletics.

A Parent Advisory Committee was formed to explore alternative financial options for supporting the district's athletic programs. As a result of the recommendations of this parent committee, as well as those of principals, athletic directors, and coaches, the Board of Education approved the implementation of a **Voluntary Athletic Contribution (VAC)** plan beginning in 2010-11.

The purpose of the plan is to support EGUSD athletic programs and help offset district and school site costs associated with the potential reinstatement of any eliminated programs next year or in future years. The district encourages your help and support to ensure the success of the plan.

The district is seeking to raise \$700,000 in donations through the VAC plan. To accomplish this, every student-athlete is encouraged to contribute in support of the district's athletics under the VAC. The Athletic Parent Advisory Committee has determined that the following suggested voluntary contributions per athlete for 2010-11 would result in meeting the VAC fundraising goal:

<b>First Sport</b>	=	<b>\$125</b>
<b>Second Sport/Second Sibling</b>	=	<b>\$100</b>
<b>Third Sport/Third Sibling</b>	=	<b>\$ 75</b>
<b>Family Plan</b>	=	<b>\$450</b>

It is not the intent of the VAC to create a financial hardship. VAC contributions are not mandatory. While a student will not be adversely affected in terms of her/his participation in the district's athletic programs should a family choose not to make financial contributions, neither will VAC contributions ensure a student's inclusion on a team or guarantee playing time. Families who wish to contribute more or less than the suggested amount or choose not to make a contribution may indicate so on the VAC form. All VAC contributions are tax-deductible.

Fifteen percent of all VAC contributions will go directly to the school's athletic programs. The remaining 85 percent will go towards the reinstatement of athletic programs at all high schools based on financial benchmarks, agreed upon by the Athletic Parent Advisory Committee and the district. Programs will be reinstated according to the following financial benchmarks:

<u>Financial Benchmark</u>	<u>Restored Program</u>	<u>Dollar Amount of Program</u>
1. \$100,000	Reserve Sustainability Account	\$100,000
2. \$350,000	All Freshman Sports	\$250,000
3. \$550,000	Reinstate Previously Eliminated Stipends	\$200,000
4. \$700,000	Restore Coaching Stipends to Original Funding Level	\$150,000

EGUSD is grateful for parents' continued support of EGUSD athletics, especially in these uncertain economic times. The district's goal is to continue to offer a quality and comprehensive athletic program at each of its comprehensive high school sites. The voluntary contribution will provide students with the opportunity to enhance their personal growth and have a positive high school experience through participation in athletics.

To access the form click here:  
VAC Frequently Asked Questions

Parents and community members interested in making an additional tax-deductible donation to athletics, please contact the EGUSD Fiscal Services Department at (916) 686–7797, extension 7663.