



P L A N O
Independent School District

9th Grade Athletic Unification FAQ



(Q) Why is Plano ISD combining its 9th grade athletic programs?

(A) The Plano ISD Strategic Plan, which includes the district's Mission and Vision, places a priority on increasing effectiveness across its programs. This athletic alignment plan of work strategy is rooted in a goal to increase vertical cluster alignment, cohesion, and unity across our programs and campuses, which will concurrently increase teaming, student success, and programmatic engagement across the four-year experience. Additionally, this strategy will help by creating a positive, winning culture that will help in the building of a strong foundation, benefitting all of our athletic programs.

(Q) Why is Plano ISD changing the structure of our cheer programs?

(A) To create a cohesion within each feeder with rebranding and increase opportunities for competing at a higher level. Enhance the competitive culture and sideline experience for our athletes, students and spectators.

(Q) What 9th grade sport teams will this include?

(A) Volleyball, Football, Girls Basketball & Boys Basketball

(Q) Why does this 9th grade athletic unification only include Volleyball, Football, Girls Basketball & Boys Basketball?

(A) Volleyball, Football, Girls Basketball & Boys Basketball are the only offerings at the 9/10 High School Campuses for athletics. All other sports are transported to the 11/12 Senior High Campuses for participation in their respective programs (example–Tennis, Golf, Track & Field, Soccer, Cross Country, Swim/Dive)

(Q) When will these 9th grade athletic and cheer structural changes occur?

(A) '24-'25 school year

(Q) What will the 9th Grade Athletic Unification look like from a structural standpoint?

(A) Central Cluster:

- Vines & Clark HS 9th Grade Athletic Teams will combine to create:
 - Plano Wildcats 9th Grade Teams
 - Volleyball (A & B)
 - Girls Basketball (A & B)
 - Boys Basketball (A & B)
 - Football (A B, & C if possible)

East Cluster:

- McMillen & Williams HS 9th Grade Athletic Teams will combine to create:
 - Plano East Panthers 9th Grade Teams
 - Volleyball (A & B)
 - Girls Basketball (A & B)
 - Boys Basketball (A & B)
 - Football (A B, & C if possible)

West Cluster:

- Jasper & Shepton HS 9th Grade Athletic Teams will combine to create:

- Plano West Wolves 9th Grade Teams
 - Volleyball (A & B)
 - Girls Basketball (A & B)
 - Boys Basketball (A & B)
 - Football (A B, & C if possible)

(Q) What will the Cheer Program changes look like from a structural standpoint?

(A) For sideline cheer: 9/10 teams (currently Freshman and Sophomore teams) at each campus will combine and cheer at 9th and JV2 games and will be our JV cheer team. 11/12 (currently JV and Varsity) will combine and cheer at Varsity and JV games and will be our Varsity team. For competition cheer: 9-12 graders may try out for Varsity and 9-10 graders may try out for JV. Both 9/10 campuses in each feeder will combine to make one JV competition team.

(Q) Which programs will have a tryout process?

(A) Volleyball, Girls Basketball, Boys Basketball & Cheer

(Q) Where will practices be held for these 9th Grade programs?

(A) We are still finalizing the location for all practices. Once these decisions are made, we will communicate these locations to all student athletes and parents.

(Q) Where will games take place for 9th Grade Volleyball, Basketball & Football?

(A) Volleyball & Basketball Games will alternate home games between the two 9/10 campuses. Football will play all home games at our district football stadiums.

(Q) Will transportation be provided?

(A) Yes. Transportation will be provided daily through the use of school bus shuttles that will transport athletes from one campus to another.

(Q) Who will communicate any logistical updates for each cluster?

(A) Most communication about practice locations, practice times, tryout dates and program information will come from our Senior High Program Head Coaches. Any additional information will come from the High School Campus or Athletic Office.

(Q) What impact will the 9th grade athletic unification have on Fine Arts programs in Plano ISD?

(A) There will be no changes to any fine arts programming at this time. PISD will continually evaluate our Fine Arts structure each year and make any necessary adjustments that can help enhance programming and student experience.