STUDENT SPORTS — CONCUSSION AND HEAD INJURIES

The board recognizes that concussions and head injuries are commonly reported injuries in children and adolescents who participate in sports and other recreational activities. The Board acknowledges the risk of catastrophic injuries or death are significant when a concussion or head injury is not properly evaluated and managed. Therefore, all competitive sport activities in the District will be identified by the administration.

Consistent with Washington law, the District will utilize guidelines developed with the Washington Interscholastic Activities Association (WIAA) and other pertinent information and forms to inform and educate coaches, youth athletes, and their parents and/or guardians of the nature and risk of concussions or head injuries, including the dangers associated with continuing to play after a concussion or head injury.

Annually, the district will distribute a head injury and concussion information sheet to all parents and guardians of student participants in competitive sport activities. The parent/guardian and student must return a signed acknowledgement indicating that they have reviewed and understand the information provided before the student participates in any covered activity. Until this acknowledgement form is returned and on file with the District, the student may not practice or compete.

All coaches, including volunteers, will complete training as required in the District procedure. Additionally, all coaches of competitive sport activities will comply with WIAA guidelines for the management of head injuries and concussions.

Cross References:	Policy 4260 Use of School Facilities	
Legal References:	RCW 28A.600	Students
	RCW 4.24.660	Liability of school districts under contract with youth programs.

Management Resources: *Policy News*, August 2009 Concussion and Head Injuries Legislation

La Center School District
Adoption Date: TBD

Student Sports Concussion and Head Injuries

Concussion and Head Injury Management in Student Sports

A. Athletic Director or Administrator in Charge of Athletics Duties:

   1. *Updating:* Each spring, the athletic director, or the administrator in charge of athletics if there is no athletic director, shall review any changes that have been made in forms required for concussion and head injury management by consulting with the WIAA or the WIAA Web site. If there are any updated forms, they will be adopted and used for the upcoming school year.

   2. *Identifying Sports:* All sports offered at La Center School District are considered to be competitive sports.

B. *Coach Training:* All coaches shall undergo training in head injury and concussion management at least once every two years by one of the following means: (1) through attendance at a WIAA or similar clock hour presentation which uses WIAA guidelines; or (2) by completing WIAA online training.

C. *Parent Information Sheet:* On a yearly basis, a concussion and head injury information sheet shall be signed and returned by the youth athlete and the athlete's parent and/or guardian prior to the youth athlete's initiating practice or competition. This information sheet may be incorporated into the parent permission sheet, which allows students to participate in extracurricular athletics.

D. *Coach's Responsibility:* A youth athlete who is suspected of sustaining a concussion or head injury in a practice or game shall be immediately removed from play.

E. *Return to Play After Concussion or Head Injury:* A student athlete who has been removed from play may not return to play until the athlete is evaluated by a licensed health care provider trained in the evaluation and management of concussion and receives written clearance to return to play from that health care provider. The health care provider may be a volunteer.

Date: **TBD**