

Public Schools Athletic League

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PSAL Overview

The mission of the Public Schools Athletic League is to provide opportunities for educating students in physical fitness, character development and socialization skills through an athletic program that fosters discipline and sportsmanship.

Established in 1903, PSAL is the longest running scholastic athletic program in the country.

Since its inception, PSAL has provided opportunities for over one million New York City students.

Last school year over 14,000 PSAL games were played, nearly three times as many as the NBA, NFL, NHL and MLB combined!

PSAL Facts and Figures

	2004-05	2014-15	Growth
Sports Offered:	19	25*	32% ↑
Student Athletes:	30,493	39,500	30% ↑
Female Athletes Participation:	41%	46.4%	13% ↑
Teams:	2,344	3,011	28% ↑
Schools:	320	517	62% ↑
Games Played September-March:	7,158	9,452	32% ↑

*Sports Added: Cricket, Double Dutch, Rugby, Flag Football, Badminton, Table Tennis, STUNT. Crew was removed from PSAL in 2010-11.

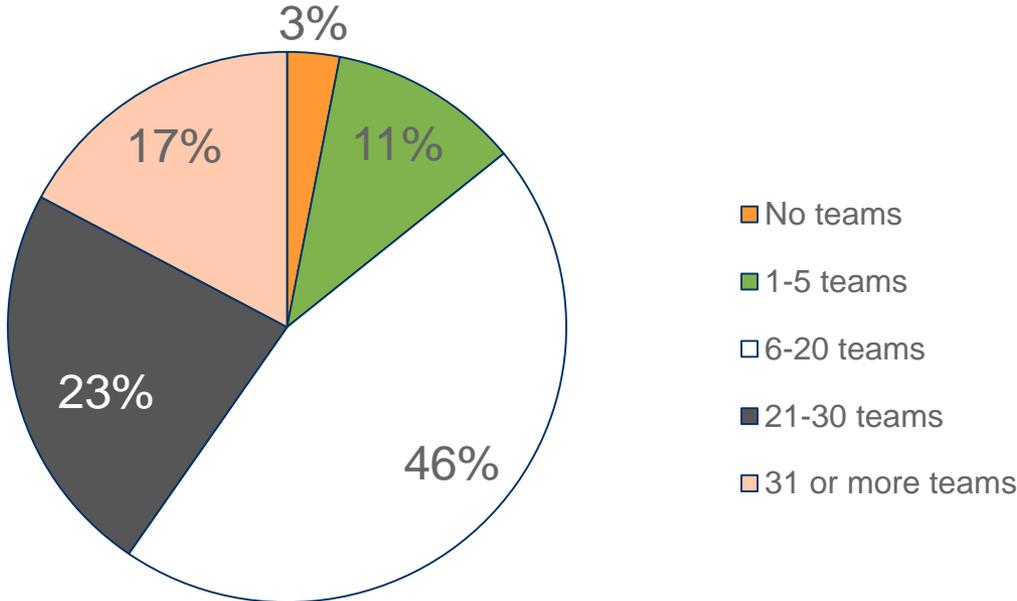
Access to PSAL Sports – 2014-15

97% of DOE High School students attend a school with a PSAL program.*

*Excludes Charter Schools and District 75 Special Education Schools. A program may constitute more than one school teaming together.

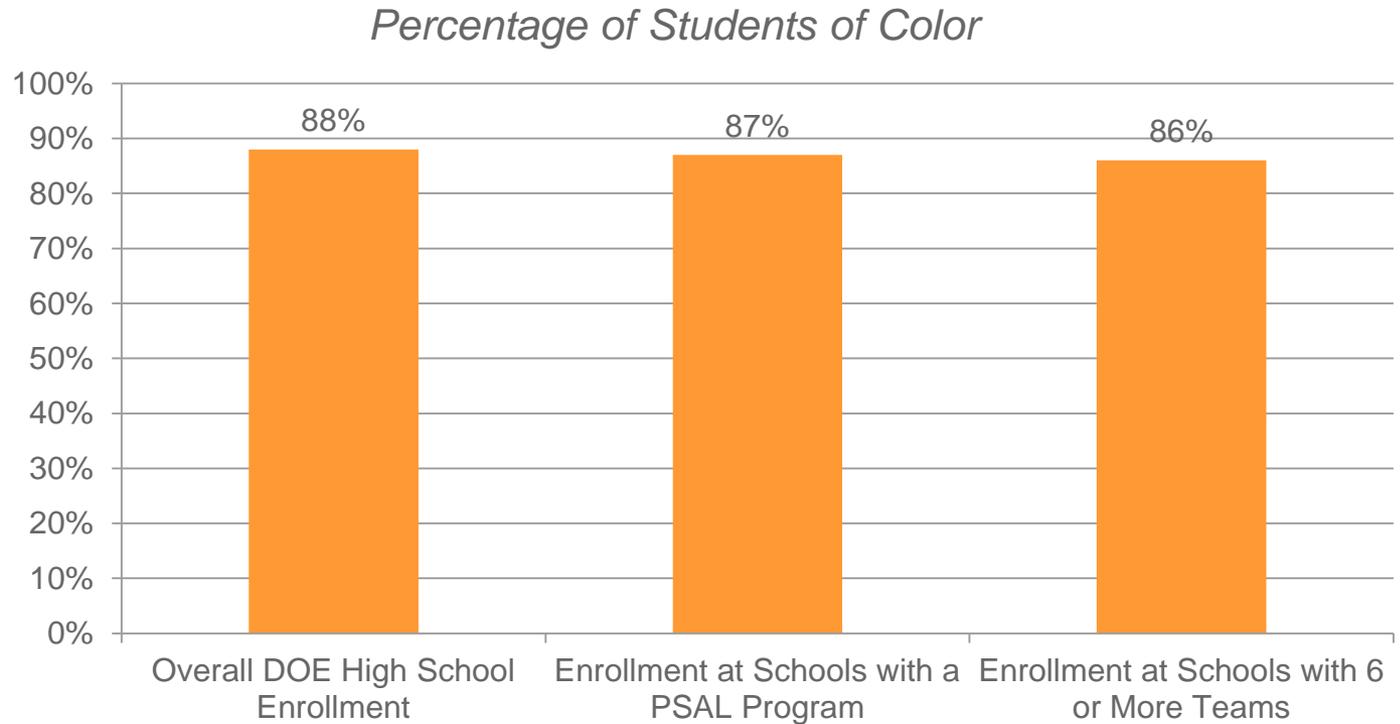
16% of DOE High School students participate in PSAL athletics.

Percent of Students with Access to PSAL Teams



Diversity in PSAL

- PSAL access reflects the diversity of New York City.
- Many larger and older schools have more teams because they have more students, facilities, and have grown their athletic programs over a longer period of time.
- Ethnic makeup of a school is never a factor in awarding teams.



PSAL Offerings and Academic Eligibility

PSAL Varsity

- Rigorous academic eligibility standards.
- Full complement of competitive sports.
- Includes schools of all sizes.

Small Schools Athletic League (SSAL)

- Caters to new and small schools, as well as non-traditional schools and students.
- Helps students and schools new to PSAL acclimate to competitive sports.
- Eligibility standards follow PSAL Varsity eligibility.

Multiple Pathways League (MPL)

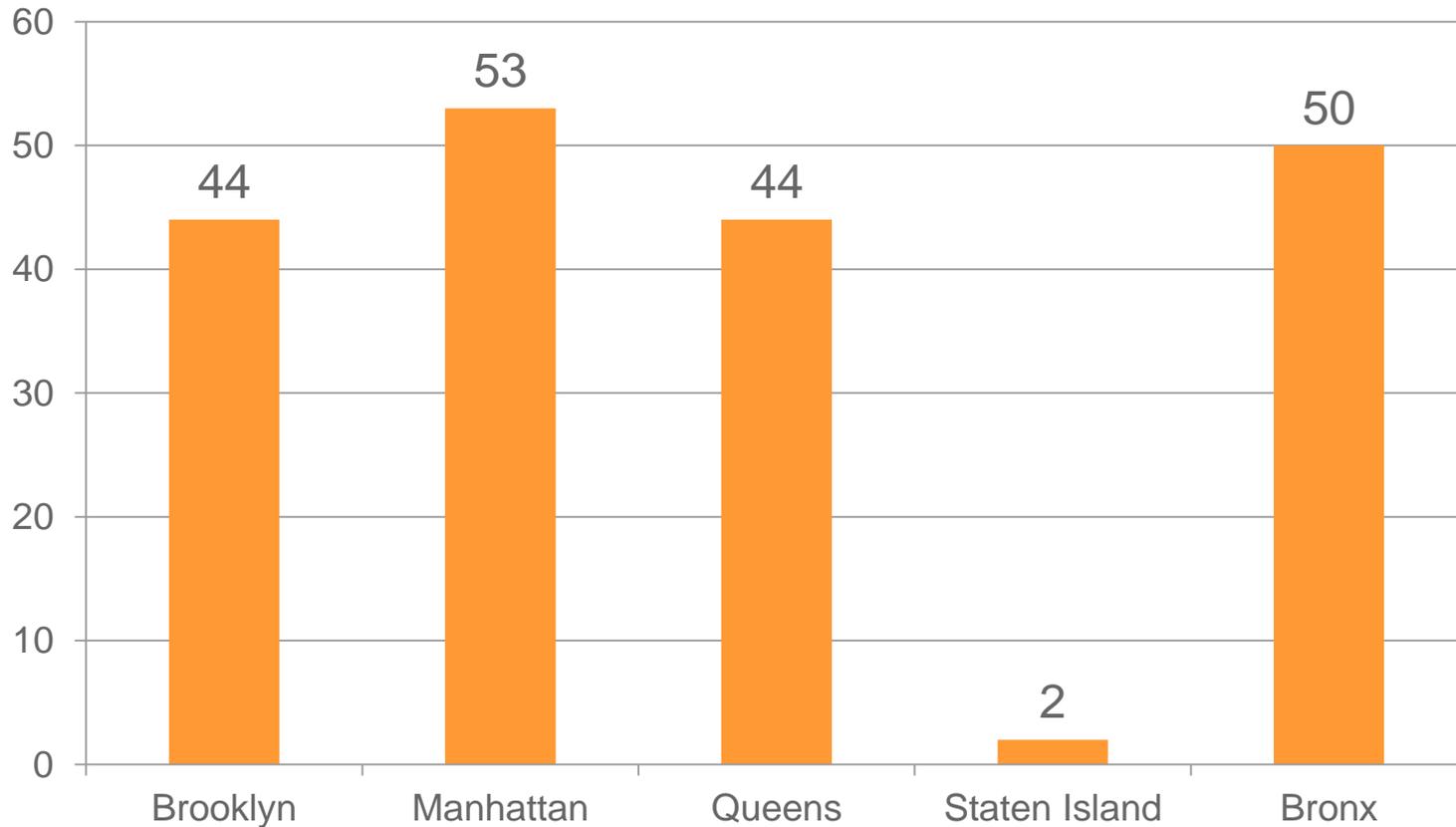
- Caters to schools with students who have aged out of PSAL and SSAL and cannot compete fairly with younger students.
- Suitable for schools desiring tailored eligibility standards for their students, including overaged and under-credited students as well as students new to this country.
- Cannot offer contact sports such as football and soccer to schools with older student athletes due to safety concerns.

Funding and New Team Requests

- PSAL's annual budget is about \$28 million. This includes about \$2 million for the SSAL and the Multiple Pathways League.
- This budget pays for team coaches as well as league officials for all contests (including SSAL and MPL contests). The average annual cost per team is \$7,600.
- New teams must be requested by schools. Schools with student interest, available coaching, and access to a facility for practices can apply for a new team via the PSAL website.
- All requests meeting the above criteria are considered carefully. Due to budgetary limitations and changing needs, not all requests can be approved immediately. During the 2014-15 school year, the focus was on adding girls teams and teams at smaller schools.

New Teams by Borough – 2014-15

Total teams added = 193



PSAL Adopts the SSAL in 2014-15



2012-13

2013-14

2014-15

- SSAL initiated by David Garcia-Rosen to address needs of smaller schools wanting access to more sports opportunities.
- League used volunteer coaches.
- League did not maintain the same safety or eligibility standards as PSAL.

- PSAL adopts the SSAL as one of its programs. PSAL launches the Multiple Pathways League.
- City Council provides funding to cover 109 new teams.
- All schools previously participating in the SSAL offered teams in the PSAL-run league.
- The SSAL and MPL maintain the same high safety standards as PSAL.
- All coaches are certified teachers and paid by PSAL in compliance with current UFT rates.

Meeting the Needs of Small Schools

PSAL has been actively addressing the needs of small schools – both in the SSAL and MPL and in the PSAL – in several ways:

- Encouraging and facilitating collaboration between schools and the forming of campus and shared PSAL programs.
- Introducing new sports that require less field and gym space, such as Double Dutch and Table Tennis.
- Adopting and expanding the Small Schools Athletic League.

Nearly all new teams granted for the Winter and Spring seasons were to small schools.

PSAL Safety

PSAL's rigorous safety standards protect the safety of NYC High School students.

- PSAL coaches must all be certified teachers and must be First Aid, CPR, AED, and Concussion Management certified.
- All PSAL officials are fingerprinted and cleared before working with students.
- Defibrillator (AED) must be present at all games.
- Age limits and no coed competition in contact sports protect the safety of all students.
- Robust weather policies are in place and are currently being reviewed in consultation with the Principals Advisory Committee.

PSAL's Medical Director, Dr. Dennis Cardone, oversees all safety and medical policies and monitors injury reports to ensure our athletes are properly cared for.

Goals for the Future

- Continue to increase opportunities, especially for small schools and for girls' sports.
- Pursuant to additional funding, expand the MPL by introducing more sports and adding new teams to all sports.
- Research potential unmet need, such as athletic opportunities for disabled students.
- Encourage collaboration between schools.