

ROUND ROCK INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT OFF-CAMPUS ATHLETIC TRAINING (OCAT)

GENERAL INFORMATION AND GUIDELINES

Purpose: A physical education waiver program is available to students in grades 9-12 to earn school credits for their commitment to an off-campus, physical education program. The student may receive ½ unit of physical education credit per semester for a total of one and a half (1.5) credits earned toward state high school graduation requirements.

Description: A program for students that wish to participate in special and/or accelerated physical education activities that are not offered comprehensively by the district physical education program. The program is a cooperative arrangement between Round Rock ISD, the student, and an approved off-campus agency selected by the student.

Activities: Activity programs that may be considered for the physical education credit are swimming, diving, dancing, rowing, rock climbing, fencing, equestrian, ice hockey, ice skating, gymnastics, cycling, martial arts, weight lifting, lacrosse, art skating, ballet, tennis, synchronized swimming, archery, baseball, boxing, skeet shooting and softball. Other programs may be considered with a formal request to the Program Administrator.

Approved Agency/Instructors: The training facility and the activities involved in the program, must be certified by the superintendent or his/her designee. Any private or commercially-sponsored agency must provide documentation to the RRISD OCAT Program Administrator that demonstrates exceptional quality, a professionally trained staff, and the use of standards to verify participation of the student. If the agency is not on the approved list, the owner/manager must submit all documentation to become a certified agency with RRISD OCAT.

Criteria: The Texas Education Agency authorizes school districts to award physical education credit for a student participating in appropriate privately or commercially-sponsored physical activity programs if certain guidelines are met.

Guidelines: The Texas Administrative Code (TAC) Chapter 74: It is the intention of the Texas Educational Agency that the various off campus substitutes for the high school physical education graduation requirement must be “exceptional” or “high” quality for Category 1 and of “appropriate” quality for Category 2. The substitute activity should be in congruence with the Physical Education Texas Knowledge and Skills (TEKS) as closely as possible, if not above and beyond the rigor of the standards.

Students applying for Off-Campus Athletic Training will be considered under the following categories:

Category 1: Athletic Training Program for State, National, or Professional Ranking or Olympic Competition

- **Release time allowed:** Minimum of fifteen (15) hours per week of highly intense, professional, supervised training that includes national or Olympic level competitions. Students qualifying and participating at this level may be dismissed from one (1) class period per day which may be scheduled at the beginning or the end of the school day.
- **No release time:** Minimum of ten (10) hours per week of highly intense, professional, supervised training that includes national or Olympic level competitions. Students qualifying and participating at this level may **NOT** be dismissed from any part of the academic schedule of classes.

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Category 2: A Private or Commercially-Sponsored Physical Activity or Training Program.

- **No release time:** Minimum of five (5) hours per week in which participants will attend private or commercially-sponsored physical activities to include those certified by the Program Administrator to be of high quality and well supervised by appropriately trained instructors. Students qualifying and participating at this level may **NOT** be dismissed from any part of the academic schedule of classes.

Agency/Instructor Procedures and Requirements:

1. Submit an agency application with the Athletic Department.
2. Must verify that the training facility is within 30 miles of RRISD to enable appropriate supervision of the program.
3. Must provide documentation that clearly substantiates the agency as being a training facility of exceptional quality such as national licensing or acknowledgement as a facility capable of training national caliber athletes for a Category I student.
4. Must document a copy of certification for instruction in a specific sport or activity.
5. Provide an individual training program for each student.
6. Provide documentation that will qualify a student for a program using national or state records to document his/her level of competition.
7. Must keep an accurate record of student attendance and contact the RRISD OCAT Program Administrator if the student's attendance becomes irregular.
8. Maintain supervision of the athlete during the instruction period.
9. Must fax a six weeks' grade report form to the designated campus counselor for each student.

Student/Parent Procedures:

1. Submit an application each school year.
2. Applications will be available at the RRISD Athletic Complex, 10211 West Parmer Lane, Austin, 78717, secondary campuses, or it may be accessed in the Athletics area of our website: www.roundrockisd.org
3. Completed applications must be returned to the Athletic Department Office on or before the deadlines, which are on or before March 30th for Category 1 and on or before August 15th for the Category 2. Delinquent information will result in denial of the waiver request.
4. Applications will be carefully reviewed by the OCAT Program Administrator followed by a confirmation letter that will be mailed to the parent/student with the approval or denial of the application.
5. Counselors will be notified with a list of all approved OCAT students.
6. Applications must be submitted **each** school year.
7. Students will **not** be allowed an "excused absence" for participation in the scheduled activity competitions.
8. Students may **not** keep their own attendance.
9. Students that abuse the program with irregular attendance will be withdrawn from the course.

Parent/Student Requirements:

10. Submit all documentation from parents, agency/instructors, and counselors by the required deadlines. **1.5 credit maximum towards state graduation requirements.**
11. Meet all criteria for either Category I or Category II and must maintain a serious intent to obtain a high degree of proficiency in an approved activity.
12. Participate in one agency/instructor at a time. Summer activities will not be counted.
13. Participate in the approved agency for the entire semester to receive credit.
14. Comply with the no pass/no play regulation.
15. Provide transportation for their chosen activity.
16. May not receive physical education credit in a given semester from any other physical education class or athletic class on campus.