

Monday, December 15, 2025

Officiating 101 Grant Support Released for 10 Schools

Six new schools and four returning to receive grants through IHSAA Foundation.

The Indiana High School Athletic Association, Inc. (IHSAA) and IHSAA Foundation are pleased to announce that six new member schools will receive this year's Officiating 101 Grant, and four returning recipients will receive continued support.

As part of the [Officiating 101 Program](#), the grant provides member schools with multi-year support to activate officials' education and training within the curricular day, earning PE credit toward graduation. The program is designed to equip students with the skills necessary to become an official while providing employability skills to prepare them for immediate and lasting employment.

As students complete each sport's curriculum, they can apply for a provisional officiating license to officiate youth and community contests. Upon graduation from high school, students will be eligible and prepared to become fully licensed IHSAA officials.

"We are excited to continue supporting our member schools who are bringing this needed program to students around the state," says **Brian Lewis, IHSAA Assistant Commissioner over Officiating**.

"Without officials, we cannot have education-based athletics and all the benefits they bring. We appreciate the support of all who donate – both monetarily for programs like the Officiating 101 Grant and those who choose to give of their time, energy, and skill to officiate competitions."

Schools receiving Officiating 101 Grants are:

First Year of Support Recipients

Blackford
Concord
Hammond Morton
Heritage Hills
New Haven
North Vermillion

Second Year of Support Recipients

Bloomington South
Evansville Reitz Memorial
Monrovia
Southport



Matteo Cirignano (left), from Evansville Reitz Memorial's officiating class, referees an elementary wrestling match in Evansville.

Supporting education-based athletics for the next generation.

Schools from last year's Officiating 101 Grant recipients will continue to offer the officiating education course and will receive additional support to help them sustain and develop their programs. New recipients will join this group and receive support awarded in the form of seat licenses through RefReps. Grants to these member schools range from \$2,700 to \$12,150, based on the number of students enrolled in each class and the year of support for the grant. Each member school chooses which sports to teach based on the needs of officials in their communities.

The IHSAA Foundation's Grant Committee selected recipients through an application and interview. Criteria include each school's program's sustainability, community needs, geographic location, and additional factors.

The Officiating 101 Grant Program is funded through private donations from individuals, private organizations, and community groups.

This is the third year of the IHSAA Foundation's Officiating 101 Grant and the second grant offered in the 2025-26 School Year. The IHSAA Foundation has awarded over \$100,000 to member schools to develop and continue officiating curricula around the state over the past three years.

About the IHSAA Foundation, Inc.

The IHSAA Foundation was created in 2015 as the philanthropic arm of the IHSAA. Its mission is to help protect, sustain, and nurture high school sports in Indiana for the 412 high schools it serves. The 17-member Foundation Board is made up of member-school superintendents from each of the three IHSAA districts, at minimum two member-school athletic directors, the Chair of the IHSAA Executive Committee, the current IHSAA Commissioner, and 11 at-large members from all corners of the state. Members of the Board are nominated by IHSAA Commissioner, Paul Neidig, and ratified by Board Approval.

About the Indiana High School Athletic Association, Inc. (IHSAA)

The IHSAA is a voluntary, not-for-profit organization that is self-supporting without the use of tax monies. Since its founding in 1903, the Association's mission has been to provide wholesome, educational athletics for the secondary schools of Indiana. Its 411-member high schools - public, institutional, parochial, and private - pay no annual membership fee or incur entry fees to play in the Association's tournaments. A state tournament series is conducted annually in 24 sports, 11 for girls, 11 for boys and two co-ed (unified flag football, unified track and field). A 19-person board of directors, elected by member school principals, governs the organization.