

# Proposed Varsity Letter Policy

Study Session

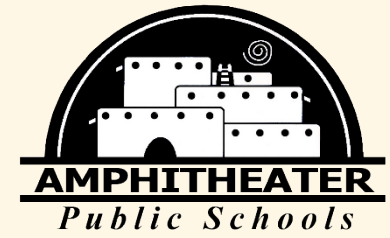
Matt Munger

Associate Superintendent for Secondary Education





# Varsity Letters



The awarding of a varsity letter has historically been a culminating experience coveted by high school athletes, representing a validation and recognition of the time, commitment, and energy student-athletes dedicate to their sport, team, and school.



As such, it is incumbent that a clear, consistent, and equitable set of guidelines are established to ensure student-athletes understand how and when they qualify for a varsity letter.





# Varsity Letter Survey



In December 2023, a survey was provided to all high school coaches at Amphi, Canyon del Oro, and Ironwood Ridge. The survey asked for the following information:

- What sport(s) the respondent coached
- What levels (Freshmen, JV, and/or Varsity)
- What criteria the respondent used to determine if a student-athlete would be awarded a varsity letter

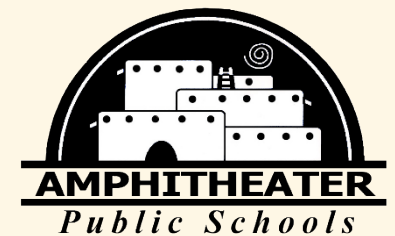
**49** coaches completed the survey.

Based on the results, **10** broad categories were identified and represented the major areas utilized to determine if a student-athlete would earn a varsity letter.



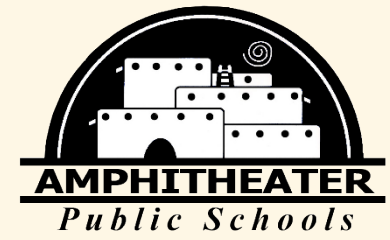
# Committee Members

Name:	Site:	Sport (Fall, Winter, or Spring):
Hank Bias	CDO	Boys' Basketball (Winter)
Tyrone Cephers	AHS	Athletic Director
Tom Danehey	AHS	Girls' Basketball / Girls' Tennis (Winter / Spring)
Marco Dominguez	CDO	Athletic Director
Bethany Evans	AHS	Cross Country (Fall)
Michelle Gerard	CDO	Cross Country / Track (Fall / Spring)
Bill Lang	IRHS	Volleyball / Beach Volleyball (Fall / Spring)
David Martinez	IRHS	Softball (Spring)
Tom Pena	CDO	Boys' Golf (Fall)
Gary Sandoval	AHS	Football / Track (Fall / Spring)
Mando Soto	Wetmore	Director of Interscholastic Activities
Eric Wolf	IRHS	Boys' Soccer (Winter)

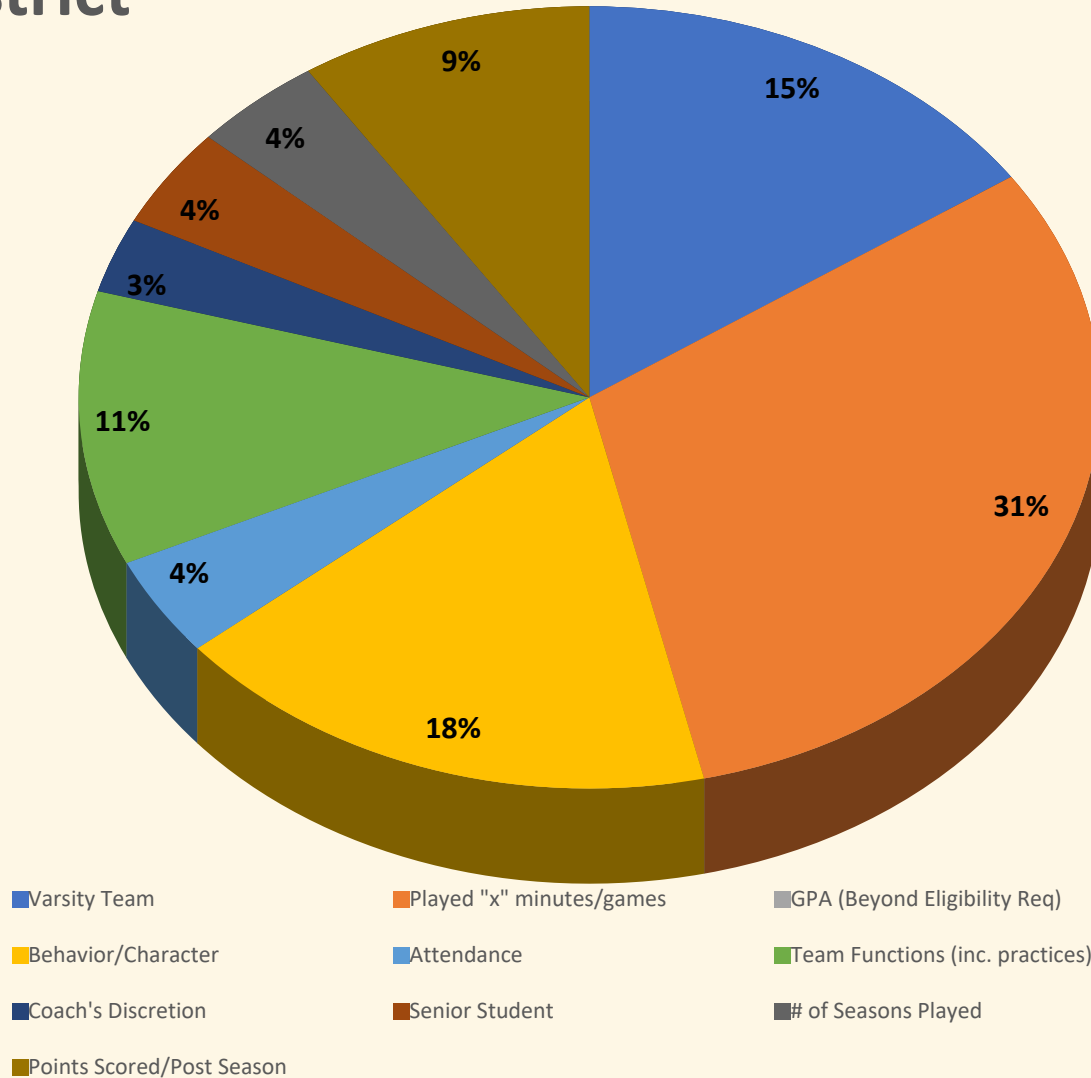




# Varsity Letter Survey - Results



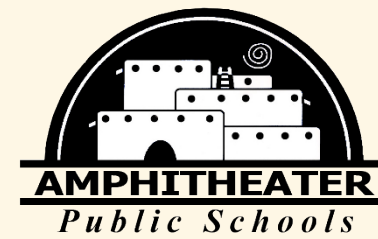
## District



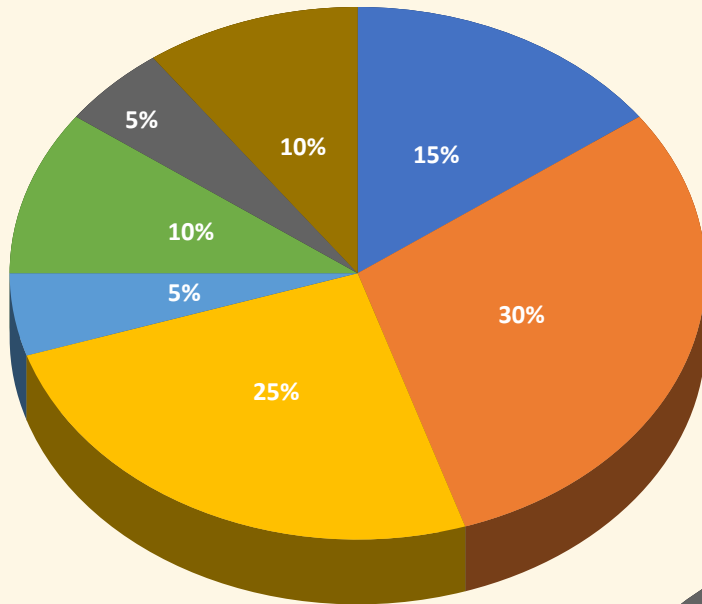
- Varsity Team
- Play Time
- GPA
- Behavior/Character
- Attendance
- Team Functions
- Coach's Discretion
- Senior
- Seasons Played
- Points Scored/Post-Season



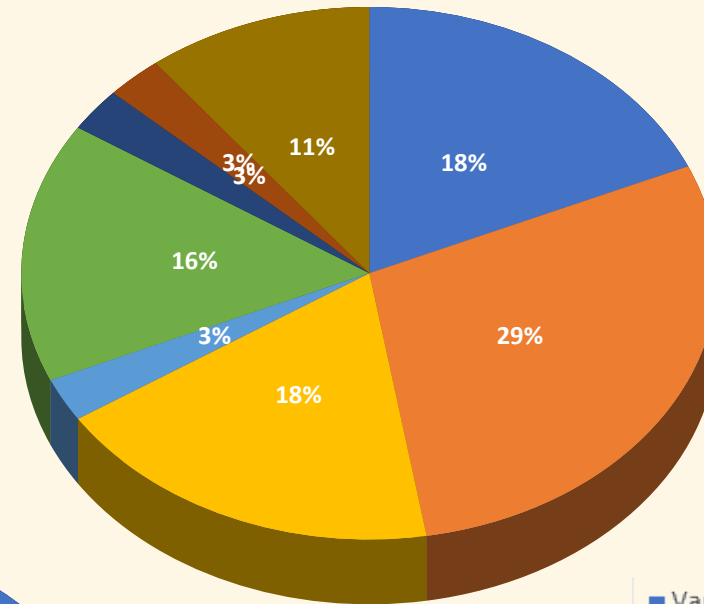
# Varsity Letter Survey - Results



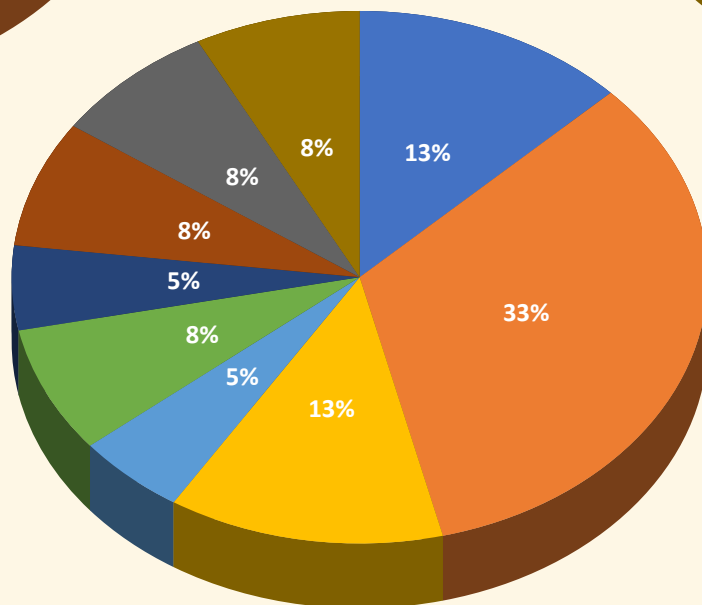
### Amphi HS



### Canyon Del Oro



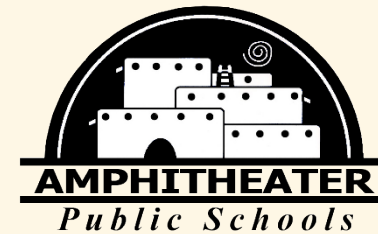
### Ironwood Ridge



- Varsity Team
- Played "x" minutes/games
- GPA (Beyond Eligibility Req)
- Behavior/Character
- Attendance
- Team Functions (inc. practices)
- Coach's Discretion
- Senior Student
- # of Seasons Played
- Points Scored/Post Season



# Committee Focus



The committee's work focused on establishing a clear and equitable set of criteria that would help student-athletes and parents understand how and when a student-athlete would qualify for a varsity letter.

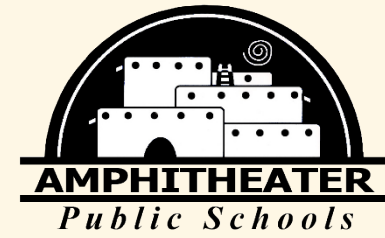
The policy would also ensure that programs and sites adhered to the same criteria when awarding varsity letters.

The committee also developed language coaches would utilize to determine when non-varsity athletes could/would qualify for a varsity letter.

Additionally, the committee identified factors that would disqualify a student-athlete from a varsity letter.



# Policy Recommendations



The draft policy contains the following recommendations:

1. A student-athlete who is on the published varsity roster will be awarded a varsity letter.
2. Student-athletes on non-varsity level teams would earn a varsity letter if they participated in at least 20% of varsity competitions and/or invitationals
3. Additional factors that may be considered include:
  - Participation in post-season competitions
  - Promotion to varsity roster/team
  - Promotion due to injury
  - Sportsmanship





# Policy Recommendations – Cont'd

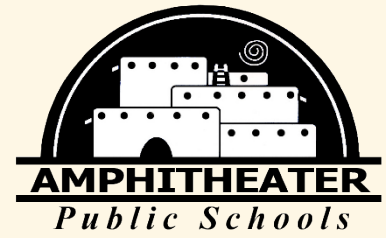


The draft policy contains the following recommendations:

4. Team fundraisers and fundraising activities cannot be considered
  
5. Disqualifying factors include:
  - Violation of the 24/7 Rule
  - Removal from a team by school administration (Policy JKDA)
  - Violation of an AIA Rule that results in school-level discipline



# Training and Communication



Upon the Governing Board's approval, the new policy will be communicated through the following steps:



1. Coaches will receive the policy via pre-season required coach meetings.  
(Site and District)



2. Inclusion in the District's Activity Participation packet

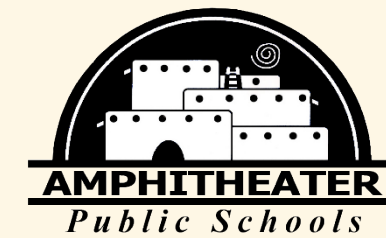


3. Pre-season parent meetings



4. Coaches' pre-season parent/student meetings and documents





Questions?