



Devine Independent School District Board of Trustees Agenda Document

Meeting Date: Jan 22, 2026

Agenda Item: Creation of a Stipend for the role of Academic Liaison and Recruiting Coordinator

Background Information:

The goal of creating the role of **Academic Liaison and Recruiting Coordinator** is to address a very real and currently missing piece in the overall success of **Arabian/Warhorse student-athletes**—both academically and athletically—while ensuring students who aspire to compete at the next level are properly supported, informed, and protected.

This position is designed to strengthen academic accountability, close communication gaps, and provide structured guidance through the increasingly complex college eligibility and recruiting process.

Administrative Consideration:

Budgetary Consideration:

This is a fairly new role that is beginning to be implemented across the state, including schools that we will likely be competing against in the future. These schools and the stipends allotted for this type of role include:

Lytle - \$5,000 / Poteet - \$3,500 / Jourdanton - \$4,500

Requesting at \$5,000 stipend

Supporting Documents:

Breakdown of job expectations and benefits attached.

Recommendation:

Respectfully Submitted by:

Doug Ball

Doug Ball
Director of Athletics

Approved by:

Todd Grandjean
Todd Grandjean
Superintendent of Schools

Academic Liaison and Recruiting Coordinator

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Academic Liaison Component

The first objective of this position is to proactively identify student-athletes who are struggling academically and to ensure meaningful support systems are put in place.

At present, academic concerns are often addressed only when a student is in-season, and in many cases consist solely of notifying the athlete of an issue. This reactive approach leaves limited follow-through and places the burden of problem-solving on the student alone.

The Academic Liaison will work collaboratively with the **Athletic Director, campus administrators, counselors, and coaches at all levels** to:

- Identify student-athletes who are academically at risk, both in-season and out-of-season
- Meet individually with those students to determine barriers to success
- Coordinate available academic supports, including tutorials, make-up work, extra credit opportunities, and structured academic planning
- Communicate expectations clearly to students and parents, including the understanding that missed practice time for academic intervention may impact playing time

This structured approach ensures academic concerns are addressed early, consistently, and with accountability, rather than after eligibility or graduation is jeopardized.

Recruiting and College Eligibility Component

The second objective of this position is to guide **every high school student-athlete** through the NCAA and NAIA Eligibility Center (Clearinghouse) registration process.

This includes educating students and families on:

- Core curriculum requirements
- GPA and standardized testing standards
- Amateurism rules and recruiting timelines

Registering with the NCAA/NAIA Eligibility Center is the **essential first step** in validating a student-athlete's academic and amateur status and opening the door to collegiate athletic participation, scholarships, and broader postsecondary opportunities.

Currently, families are left to navigate this complex process independently, often without a full understanding of the long-term academic implications or critical deadlines. This position ensures consistent, accurate guidance and ongoing monitoring of academic progress aligned with eligibility requirements.

Value to Students and the District

The Academic Liaison and Recruiting Coordinator position:

- Improves academic success and graduation outcomes
- Reduces eligibility and compliance risks
- Expands access to college and scholarship opportunities
- Provides equitable support for all student-athletes, not just those being actively recruited
- Demonstrates the district's commitment to developing well-rounded students prepared for life beyond athletics