



NATIONAL FEDERATION OF STATE HIGH SCHOOL ASSOCIATIONS

## NEWS RELEASE

### **New NFHS Learning Center Course – “The Student Experience” – Relays Participation Benefits to Students**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Contact: Dan Schuster

INDIANAPOLIS, IN (December 17, 2020) — The National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS) has announced “The Student Experience” – a free student-centered course focused on the long-term benefits of education-based activities participation – as a new addition to the NFHS Learning Center.

“The last few years, we have had a lot of success delivering coursework and resources directly to students through the NFHS Learning Center to help them get the most out of their interscholastic experience,” said Dan Schuster, NFHS director of educational services. “By taking ‘The Student Experience,’ we want them to understand why participating in high school activities programs is so important to their future.”

In the past year, the NFHS Learning Center has released several resources within “The Parent Seat,” a collection of courses and videos that promote the true purpose of education-based athletics and performing arts to parents of participants. “The Student Experience” is the first course offering that conveys a similar message to students and highlights the inherent opportunities to learn and develop character traits while playing a sport, singing in the choir or performing in the school musical.

Another major component of the course helps students understand the connection between participation and greater academic achievement. While some students may not recognize the link

between activities programs and success in the classroom, they may find it advantageous in securing opportunities to receive a college education, as well as financial assistance through scholarships.

Finally, the course discusses the community affiliation that is established when a student belongs to a school team, performing arts group or club. Being a part of a school-based program can provide students with a sense of identity and allows them to find common bonds with teammates and fellow students as a representative of something bigger than themselves.

“Moving forward, this will be the core course for students at the NFHS Learning Center,” Schuster said. “We hope students from all across the country will complete this course and gain a better understanding of all the advantages they receive from participating in school programs.”

Schuster plans to follow “The Student Experience” with additional student-focused resources on the NFHS Learning Center, with the ultimate goal of creating an NFHS National Student Credential that can be obtained by completing multiple courses.

For more information on “The Student Experience” course, please visit:

<https://nfhslearn.com/courses/the-student-experience>.

*This press release was written by Nate Perry, coordinator of media relations at the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS).*

**###**

#### **About the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS)**

The NFHS, based in Indianapolis, Indiana, is the national leadership organization for high school sports and performing arts activities. Since 1920, the NFHS has led the development of education-based interscholastic sports and performing arts activities that help students succeed in their lives. The NFHS sets direction for the future by building awareness and support, improving the participation experience, establishing consistent standards and rules for competition, and helping those who oversee high school sports and activities. The NFHS writes playing rules for 17 sports for boys and girls at the high school level. Through its 50 member state associations and the District of Columbia, the NFHS reaches more than 19,500 high schools and 12 million participants in high school activity programs, including more than 7.9 million in high school sports. As the recognized national authority on interscholastic activity programs, the NFHS conducts national meetings; sanctions interstate events; offers online publications and services for high school coaches and officials; sponsors professional organizations for high school coaches, officials, speech and debate coaches, and music adjudicators; serves as the national source for interscholastic coach training; and serves as a national information resource of interscholastic athletics and activities. For more information, visit the NFHS website at [www.nfhs.org](http://www.nfhs.org).

**MEDIA CONTACTS:**

Bruce Howard, 317-972-6900  
Director of Publications and Communications  
National Federation of State High School Associations  
[bhoward@nfhs.org](mailto:bhoward@nfhs.org)

Chris Boone, 317-972-6900  
Assistant Director of Publications and Communications  
National Federation of State High School Associations  
[cboone@nfhs.org](mailto:cboone@nfhs.org)

Cody Porter, 317-972-6900  
Manager of Media Relations  
National Federation of State High School Associations  
[cporter@nfhs.org](mailto:cporter@nfhs.org)

Nate Perry, 317-972-6900  
Coordinator of Media Relations  
National Federation of State High School Associations  
[nperry@nfhs.org](mailto:nperry@nfhs.org)