

# ***Transforming Middle School Athletics: A Journey of Growth***

***Informational Hearing – Middle School Sports  
Council Bill 25-0031R***

***November 13, 2025***

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## *City Schools Middle School Athletics: Our Story*



# The State of Middle School Athletics Before COVID-19

Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, City Schools' middle school athletics were severely limited, with programming mainly available in basketball and track & field at only a small number of schools. Resource constraints, including insufficient funding, inadequate facilities, and transportation barriers, resulted in inequitable access to sports opportunities, leaving many students without the benefits of structured athletic experiences that promote physical health and teamwork.





## **Overview**

In partnership with Under Armour, City Schools completed a comprehensive landscape analysis that helped develop and inform the Middle School Athletics Exposure and Expansion Initiative.

## **Analysis Insights**

- Compared to other MD counties, there were fewer middle school athletics opportunities available in Baltimore City.
- Surrounding districts largely relied on recreation departments.
- City Schools is leading with a district-based model.

## **Why It Matters**

- Students participating in organized athletics report higher levels of school engagement and improved attendance.
- Principals strongly support centralized athletic programming to create consistency and opportunity.


# **The District's Commitment: A Strategic Response**





City Schools  
Committed to  
Increase  
Opportunities

Framework of  
Additional Staffing  
& Resources



Expansion to 7  
Competitive Sports  
Offerings



RFP Developed to  
Engage Vendors &  
Partners

City Schools Adjust  
to Facilitate Vendor  
Programming

16 Vendors &  
Partners Provide  
MS Athletics &  
Leadership  
Programs

# City Schools Middle School Athletics Opportunities

Cross Country	Unified Flag Football	Volleyball	Unified Indoor Bocce	Basketball
Unified Track & Field	Unified Outdoor Bocce	Badminton	Boxing	Crew/Rowing
Golf	Kickball	Lacrosse	Tennis	Pickleball
Soccer	Squash	Swimming	Running	Flag Rugby
Ultimate Frisbee	Baseball	Softball	Rowing	Mentorship Through Sport

district coordinated
vendor coordinated



- Coppin State University
- Baltimore Community Rowing
- BUBA
- First Tee Golf
- Girls On The Run
- The Little Leagues
- National Coalition of Womens Athletics
- Soccer Without Borders
- Squashwise
- Y in Central Maryland
- Whole Person Whole Life
- Girls in the Game
- GameOn Fitness
- Harlem Lacrosse

## Vendor Partnerships & Support

While program growth has been extraordinary, it's important to note that this success reflects **significant financial and operational investments**. Expansion has relied on **collaboration, strategic use of resources, and the shared commitment** of educators and community partners who believe in the power of athletics to enrich students' experiences and outcomes.

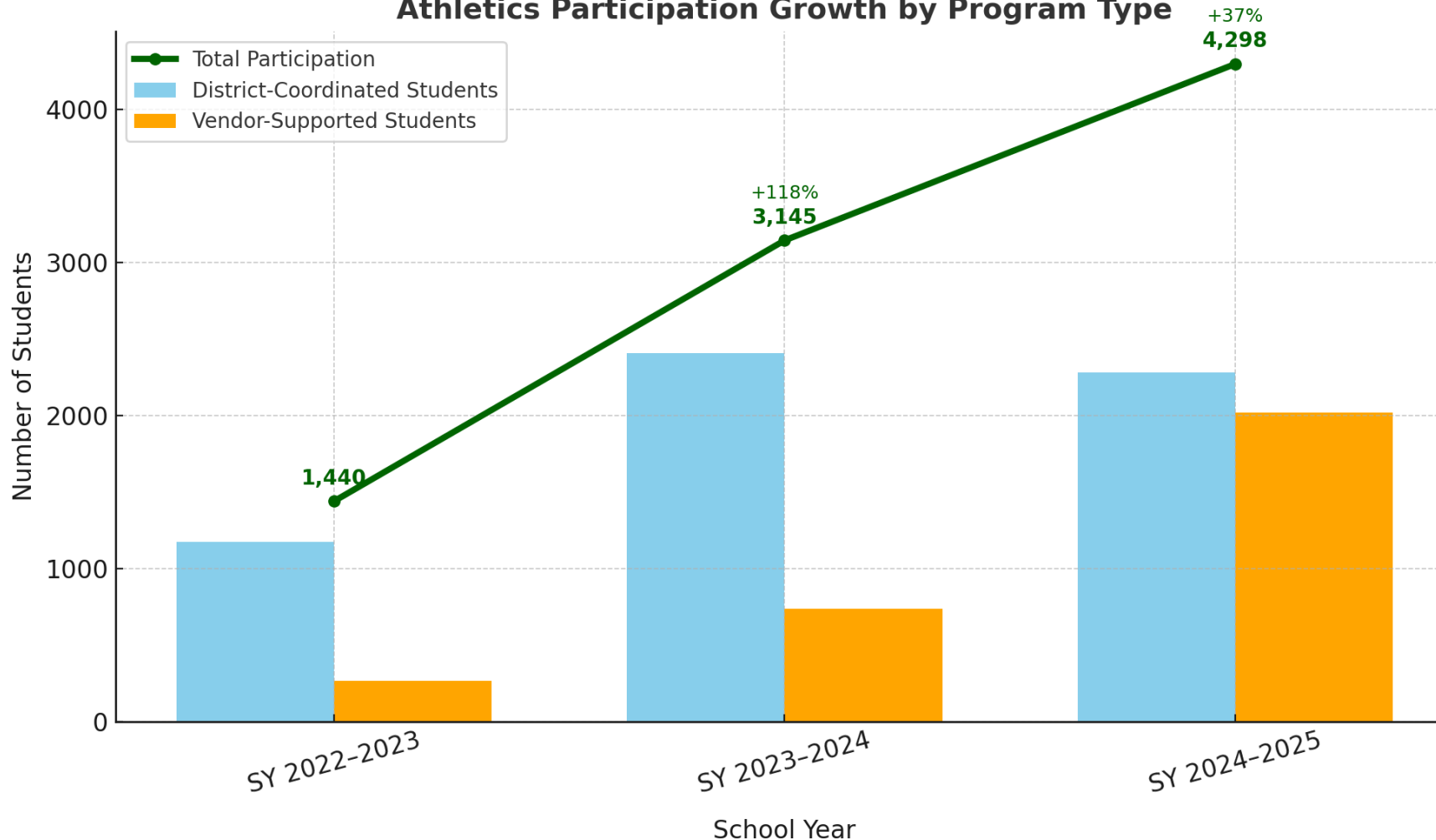




# Milestones in Motion

Over the past three school years, City Schools' Middle School Athletics programming has experienced remarkable expansion and revitalization.

**Athletics Participation Growth by Program Type**



**From SY22-23 to  
SY24-25**



**+92%**  
teams



**+198%**  
student athletes

# ***Our Shared Path Forward***

City Schools' middle school athletics program has evolved into a **thriving, districtwide initiative** supported by schools, coaches, and community partners.

**Substantial expansion of opportunities** is giving more middle schoolers access to sports and team experiences than ever before.

By providing early **exposure to sports**, we're building a **strong pipeline into high school athletics**.

Our new **partnership with the Baltimore Children and Youth Fund (BCYF)**—including a **\$300,000 investment**—will further expand reach, with BCYF managing the spring vendor-provided programming.

Continued investment and collaboration will **secure the long-term future** of middle school athletics, ensuring every student can experience the benefits of sport, teamwork, and belonging.





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