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**SFUSD Athletic Office Report on High School Athletes' Academic Performance in
2010-11**

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SFUSD Athletes Outperform Non-Athletes In The Classroom In 2010-11

In 2010-11, SFUSD athletes had higher GPAs than the SFUSD average in virtually every conceivable measurement.

Every year, the SFUSD Athletic Office assesses athletes' grades prior to their sports participation in order to establish their scholastic eligibility to participate in athletics. This assessment examines the athletes' grades from the semester and marking period prior to their participation. In 2010-11, the athletes' grades from the semester prior to their participation were compared to the overall SFUSD average for the identical time period.

Fall and winter sport athletes had a 3.01 average GPA in the spring semester of 2010. The SFUSD overall average for that time period was 2.67. Fall and winter sport male athletes had a 2.86 GPA compared to the SFUSD average of 2.53. Fall and winter female athletes had a 3.21 GPA compared to the SFUSD average of 2.81.

Spring sport athletes had a 3.24 average GPA in the fall semester of 2010. The SFUSD overall average for that time period was 2.73. Spring sport male athletes had a 3.19 GPA compared to the SFUSD average of 2.59. Spring sport female athletes had a 3.30 GPA compared to the SFUSD average of 2.88.

The Athletic Office also compared average GPAs for every ethnic group. Fall, winter, and spring sport athletes had higher GPAs than the SFUSD average in every ethnic group. The Athletic Office broke down the ethnic group comparisons by school. Athletes in each ethnic group had higher GPAs than their school's average for that ethnic group in 90.2% of these comparisons.

The Athletic Office also compared the athletic populace from each school against the school's average GPA. Fall and winter sport athletes had a higher average GPA than the school's average GPA at 11 of the 12 schools (Lowell's school average GPA is .0038

greater than the average athletic GPA). Spring sport athletes had a higher average GPA than the school's average GPA at all 12 of the 12 schools.

It may seem counterintuitive that athletes would have higher grades than the general student populace. However, this should not come as a surprise to anyone familiar with the literature on this matter. These results are consistent with results of other studies.

Studies in Colorado, Indiana, New Mexico, and North Carolina have all found that high school athletes perform better than the school's average GPA. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services has also found that athletes are less likely to drop out of school, use drugs, smoke cigarettes, and be arrested.

This 2010-11 data is strong evidence that participation in SFUSD's interscholastic athletic program is one of the strongest predictors of academic success. This data would lead to the conclusion that enhanced support for the SFUSD interscholastic program would be one of the most efficient means of improving SFUSD academic performance.