



## **NLRSD and PCSSD Joint Statement Regarding AAA Investigation**

As of Wednesday, October 27, 2021, the North Little Rock School District (NLRSD) and Pulaski County Special School District (PCSSD) have each signed the appropriate documentation with the Arkansas Activities Association (AAA) to allow a student-athlete to play high school boys' basketball for the 2021-2022 season at North Little Rock High School.

NLRSD and PCSSD superintendents extensively conferred with AAA and, after additional conversations over the last two days, it became apparent the AAA is not prepared to resolve this issue. Both school districts agree there were violations of AAA rules but have determined this was at no fault of the student-athlete or the family. Therefore, it is time to move forward in the best interest of our student-athletes and stakeholders.

This entire process uncovered several concerns related to AAA rules, procedures, systems and accountability structure. There is a significant lack of clarity which causes confusion and inconsistent interpretation of the following:

- Application of penalties that severely harm the student-athlete rather than adults
- Changing Schools Athletic Participation (CSAP) form and how it can override a finding of a violation of a rule by AAA
- AAA investigative process
- Non-school Coach Rule (Article III Section I Rule 1, E)
- Recruitment Rule (Article III Section I Rule 5, G)
- Volunteer coaches, trainers, and private athletic instructors
- A self-reported violation versus a non-self reported violation
- AAA appeals process

This matter has cast light on systemic issues in the AAA in the interpretation and application of its rules. NLRSD and PCSSD call on the AAA to immediately address these issues by performing a full review and audit of its rules, procedures, systems and accountability structure with input from member schools and all AAA stakeholders. PCSSD is satisfied with NLRSD's commitment to appropriately address this AAA violation in its athletic program.

NLRSD and PCSSD are committed to improving the experiences of our student-athletes.

A blue ink signature of Dr. Gregory J. Pilewski, written in a cursive style.

Dr. Gregory J. Pilewski  
Superintendent  
North Little Rock School District

A blue ink signature of Dr. Charles McNulty, written in a cursive style.

Dr. Charles McNulty  
Superintendent  
Pulaski County Special School District