GIAA AES PARENT HANDBOOK

INTRODUCTION

An **AES (Alternatively Educated Student)** is one who receives his or her education from a qualified parent, legal guardian or tutor under the State of Georgia requirements (**O.C.G.A. § 20-2-690**) for homeschooling.

The GIAA eligibility requirements below are adopted in addition to the regulations as enacted by **Senate Bill 51**, known as the "Dexter Mosley Act" which *"authorizes home study students in grades 6 through 12 to participate in extracurricular and interscholastic activities, and requires the home study student will complete one qualifying course during any semester the student participates in an extracurricular or interscholastic activity."*

For participation in a GIAA Interscholastic Member School, the following regulations are required:

1. The GIAA Member School that initially accepts an AES Student will be considered the student's **"Declared School"** for the duration of the student's eligibility.

2. An AES Student's primary residence must be within a 45-mile radius of the GIAA "Declared School."

3. Once an AES Student has established a "Declared School," they are required to participate with that "Declared School" in **any interscholastic competition offered by the school**. The student becomes associated with the "Declared School" similar to an enrolled student.

4. An AES Student must meet the admission qualifications of the "Declared School."

5. An AES student must complete one qualifying course during the semester the student participates in an extracurricular or interscholastic activity.

6. According to Georgia homeschool regulations, homeschool students must take an appropriate nationally standardized test at the **end of their 9th grade year.** The "Declared School" must provide the results of the test to the GIAA Office. Once a homeschool (AES) student has taken this test in the 9th grade, s/he will have three years left of eligibility in GIAA.

7. AES students will be deemed eligible to compete under the authority of the GIAA and must meet **ALL** eligibility and academic requirements as stated in the GIAA Student Eligibility section.

8. An AES student must be in 8th grade or above to participate in GIAA Varsity competitions.

9. To be eligible to participate in interscholastic competitions, an AES student must not have reached his/her 19th birthday prior to May 1st, preceding the year of participation.

10. Students enrolled in a public school are **NOT considered AES students and are NOT eligible to participate** with a GIAA member school.

GIAA does not have oversight authority over a member schools' decision to allow AES participation. Questions concerning participation opportunities including fees, documentation, and all other pre-participation requirements, should be discussed with your desired member school.

INTERSCHOLASTIC OPPORTUNITIES

Once eligibility is approved, AES students have an interscholastic opportunity equal to that of other students. Below you will find a list of all that is offered:
FALL – Cheer, Clay Target, Cross Country, Girls Flag Football, Football, Softball, Volleyball

WINTER – Archery, Basketball, Bass Fishing, Swimming, Wrestling

SPRING - Baseball, Golf, Soccer, Tennis, Track & Field

ENROLLMENT AND INTERSCHOLASTIC PARTICIPATION

To be eligible to try out and/or participate the student's name must appear on the school's Student Enrollment database.

1. Once approved by GIAA, an email will be sent to the Parent/Legal Guardian indicating approval.
2. The parent/legal guardian should then reach out to the desired school for information on admissions and entry into their eligibility database.
3. No student shall be permitted to try out or participate with a member school prior to these stipulations being met.
4. The cutoff dates for newly enrolled students to be eligible for the season's current interscholastic activities are as follows:

   a. Fall Activities: September 15
   b. Winter Activities: January 15
   c. Spring Activities: March 15

5. No new students entering the member school after these cutoff dates will be allowed to participate in that season's activity.

APPLICATION PROCESS

A. Parent or Legal Guardian must complete the student's application to participate. The application must be approved prior to any form of participation.
B. Approval shall be valid for one school year, or until such time that eligibility has been terminated by GIAA.

C. For continued participation, Parents/Guardians shall be required to submit an application each year. Any changes to the student's status must be submitted at that time.

D. Applications may be submitted at any time. Applications submitted after March 15 will be considered for the upcoming school year.

E. Fees associated with the application process shall be paid prior to review and are NON-REFUNDABLE.

INSTRUCTIONS

The following instructions are meant to guide you through the process of Registering your student (AES) for participation within a GIAA Member School. Please follow the instructions carefully as mistakes on the application may cause a delay in the approval process or a denial of eligibility. There is a $150 processing fee associated with the application. This fee is per student per year.

1. Go to https://form.jotform.com/250905130962150
2. On this page you will find the AES Student Application

Student Details:
First Name and Last Name - as they appear on the birth certificate, no Nicknames
Date of Birth - as it appears on the birth certificate
Gender - Determined by their birth certificate.
Address, City, State, Zip - home of primary residence for the student
Relationship to Student - this is for us to establish who is giving permission for the student to participate.

Documentation Upload:
Upload Birth Certificate - this must be a **certified** copy of the student's Birth Certificate.

Upload GADOE Declaration of Intent or other compliance supporting documentation - This must be an accepted Declaration, submitting a screenshot of your application will not be accepted, it must have the 32 digit electronic signature on it.

Sport / Arts & Academic Activities:
Here you may select all the Sports and/or Art & Academic activities that interest your student. Please keep in mind that this part of the Application is simply informational for the GIAA office. The school you are joining will not see this information. If you are interested in participating in other activities, communicate with your "Declared" school. If your "Declared" school does not participate in one of your activities of interest, talk with your school about available options.

Agree and Submit:
There is a $150 fee associated with the AES Application. This is a processing fee that is paid per student per year.

This Application only creates eligibility for the student. It does not guarantee placement on a roster. That will be determined by the school. Please communicate with the school about placement.

Payment:
Payment is made via Credit Card.
Once payment is made, we will review your application, and either approve or deny the Application form. If approved, you will receive an email stating approval.