

# DMPS LEAVING CENTRAL IOWA METRO LEAGUE

Des Moines Public schools is starting a new athletic conference in the 2022-23 school year with five other schools.



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Fort Dodge, Ames, Ottumwa, Roosevelt, Hoover, East, Marshalltown, Mason City, North and Lincoln. What do all of these schools have in common? They will be departing the CIML Conference at the end of the 2021-22 season.

The CIML consists of 19 schools. Of those 19, nine are considered the ‘suburban schools’: Ankeny, Ankeny Centennial, Dowling Catholic, Johnston, Southeast Polk, Urbandale, Valley, Waukee. These schools tend to have more success. The ‘non-suburban schools’ are Ames, East, Hoover, Lincoln, North, Roosevelt, Fort Dodge, Marshalltown, Mason City and Ottumwa.

East High School has been in the CIML Metro since it started in 1991, DMPS has been competing in the conference for about 30 years. Our record for the past years hasn’t been the greatest in our conference and other schools in the new conference relate to the same win/lose record. DMPS schools have only about a 14 percent winning record in eight sports; basketball, soccer, baseball, football, volleyball, and softball.

The new conference will debut in the 2022-23 school season, all sports would be affected since we’re pulling out of everything. The decision making of the new conference has been going on for about 2 years, and a little bit longer because of the pandemic.

“The change in the conference will allow us to be more competitive,” Athletics and activities director Lyle Fedders said.

In the past 2020-21 boys’ basketball season, East boys had the most successful season winning four games. Those four games the boys won; those teams were in our new conference. The games were joyful to watch, more competitive, and successful day in and day out.

“I think the new conference will be good for DMPS programs and schools,” new East High boys’ basketball coach Ryan Chad said.

Participation rates have been going down the past years, but making this new conference is a hope that the rates might go up.

“Making a new conference would get our participation rate up,” Fedders said.

High school students love playing in a sports program that is successful, that goes deeper than just wins and losses. It goes from having a supportive coach who cares about your health, academics, who supports you emotionally and mentally. Also being around friends and getting cheered from students who go from your school.

“The pros outweigh the cons, we’re going to be more competitive night in and night out,” Fedders said.

DMPS is going to be playing schools that compare to us, from economic status to communities. Forming a new conference would make things fit for all the groups of schools, it’ll drive school spirit, more participation rates, and lastly more fun for everyone. “This new conference would be such a good fit for DMPS, and games will be more fun and competitive,” freshman Jecari Patton said.

“You have to believe you can win before you can actually win,” wrestling coach James Giboo said.

Going into games playing the suburban schools, some athletes get anxious going against schools with better winning records. Some have negative mindsets going in, but making a new conference with schools DMPS can compete would help.

“The new conference is a good idea and should’ve happened a long time ago, this gives schools like ours a better feeling about playing sports,” senior DaJanique Crockett said.

The making of the new conference would bring more equal competitive balance, ideally higher participation numbers as a result of that competitive balance, and more flexible scheduling in a smaller league.

