



To: NJSIAA Executive Committee

From: Colleen Maguire, Executive Director

Date: September 16, 2026

RE: Boys Basketball Classification Proposal

Background

In May 2025, NJSIAA membership approved a proposal to adopt a competitive balance policy to be applied in the sports of football, boys basketball and girls basketball. The policy requires a non-traditional school that earns a certain number of success points during the prior classification cycle to move up one classification group. Charter schools, which are able to draw students from a wide area, are subject to the competitive balance policy. Since the policy was adopted, nine (9) schools in the sport of boys basketball have been required to move up one classification group.

College Achieve Greater Asbury Park

During the 2023-2024 school year, College Achieve Greater Asbury Park won the boys Group 1 state basketball championship. The school had a roster of students from across the state, and won its six playoff games by an average of 39 points. After that, the school left the Association and for the next two years competed as an independent, with two varsity basketball teams — a “national” team and a “regional” team. The national team’s record last year was 17-6, and the regional team’s record was 2-9. NJSIAA rules prohibit a school from competing with two varsity teams.

In January 2026, new charter school regulations were signed into law. These new regulations required any charter school that will be competing in interscholastic sports to join a voluntary association like the NJSIAA. As a result, College Achieve Greater Asbury Park has re-joined the Association, and has agreed to comply with NJSIAA rules. School administrators understand that they can no longer compete with two varsity basketball teams.

Proposal

NJSIAA staff proposes that the competitive balance policy be retroactively applied to College Achieve Greater Asbury Park’s boys basketball team, and that they be classified as a Group 2 school for the 2026-2027 season. The school’s classification during the 2027-2028 season will depend on the number of success points earned during the 2026-2027 season.

NJSIAA staff believes this is necessary to maintain a level playing field. The purpose of the competitive balance policy is to ensure that successful teams that have an inherent enrollment advantage compete at a higher level. This year’s College Achieve Greater Asbury Park roster will include student-athletes from two different teams in the prior season – one of which was categorized as a national team. In addition, the Association has a fundamental interest in protecting the integrity of its Group 1 state tournament.

Staff has informed College Achieve Greater Asbury Park of its intentions with this proposal.