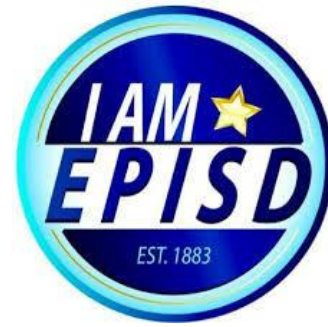


# A CASE FOR WRESTLING

December 21, 2016



## TRADITION OF EXCELLENCE

Wrestling has been one of the most consistently high-performing sports in El Paso since the 1970's. The sport has produced many State Champion teams, All-State wrestlers and, more recently, All-Americans. The chart below provides a list of wrestling team achievements since 1973:

1973 Irvin HS – <b>State Champions</b>	1993 Burges HS – State Runner-up
1975 Burges HS – State Runner-up	1994 Eastwood HS – State Runner-up
1976 Burges HS – State Runner-up	1995 Eastwood HS – <b>State Champions</b>
1977 Burges HS – <b>State Champions</b>	2000 Eastwood HS – Boys State Runner-up
1978 Burges HS – State Runner-up	2005 Hanks HS – Girls State Runner-up
1979 Burges HS – <b>State Champions</b>	2013 Franklin HS – Boys State Runner-up
1980 Burges HS – <b>State Champions</b>	2014 Hanks HS – <b>Girls State Champions</b>
1981 Burges HS – State Runner-up	2014 Franklin HS – Boys State Duals Runner-up
1982 Burges HS – <b>State Champions</b>	2015 Hanks HS – <b>Girls State Champions</b>
1985 Eastwood HS – <b>State Champions</b>	2015 Franklin HS – Boys 3 <sup>rd</sup> Place
1989 Eastwood HS – State Runner-up	2016 Hanks HS – <b>Girls State Champions</b>
1991 Burges HS – State Runner-up	2016 Eastwood HS - Boys 3 <sup>rd</sup> Place

In the last 10 years, 77 athletes from Franklin High School have qualified to compete in the State Tournament. Of those, 31 have earned the designation of All-State Wrestlers by placing in the Top 6 at the tournament. In addition, 7 of them have become All-American, and 12 have gone to compete at the collegiate level. As a team, Franklin Boys Wrestling has finished in the Top 10 at the State Tournament 5 times and in 2013 Runner up to the State Champion “Power House Team” of Allen High School.

EPISD is consistently recognized across the state as having highly-achieving wrestlers. According to the UIL wrestling website, 254 EPISD wrestlers have qualified for the State Tournament and 94 of them have placed and been named as All-State wrestlers within the last 10 years. The chart below provides a breakdown of the achievement of EPISD wrestlers since 2007:

<b>YEAR</b>	<b>BOYS STATE QUALIFIERS</b>	<b>BOYS ALL-STATE</b>	<b>GIRLS STATE QUALIFIERS</b>	<b>GIRLS ALL-STATE</b>
2016	13	6	14	6
2015	17	8	18	10
2014	17	9	13	5
2013	17	7	13	5
2012	16	5	12	4
2011	13	2	11	5
2010	9	1	12	6
2009	11	2	10	5
2008	7	0	9	3
2007	9	3	13	2

**CONCERN**

In reviewing the recent history of EPISD’s high-performing wrestling programs, it is difficult to understand why it is underfunded and understaffed. Perhaps it is because the wrestling community, especially the coaches, have accepted the status quo and have focused their energy on providing the students with the best opportunities available with the resources at hand. Nevertheless, as we travel to Dallas, Houston, Austin and other cities, we discover that their programs are both better-funded and better-staffed. Districts throughout Texas have separate Boys Wrestling and Girls Wrestling programs, each with their own Head Coach, multiple assistants, and plentiful budgets. I have conducted research and compiled a list of staffing and financial details from districts throughout Texas. I’ve emailed coaches from other districts and have collected a list detailing information about their programs. The following is what I’ve gathered:

## NUMBER OF COACHES AND STIPEND AMOUNTS THOUGHOUT THE STATE OF TEXAS

### **El Paso ISD** - Staff and Stipends

- 1 Head Coach responsible for Boys and Girls Programs: \$3,200, 1
- Assistant Coach: \$2,000

### **Ysleta ISD** - Staff and Stipends

- 1 Head Boys Coach: \$3,700
- 1 Head Girls Coach: \$3,700
- 2 Assistant: \$2,800

### **Socorro ISD** - Staff and Stipends

- 1 Head Coach responsible for Boys and Girls Programs: \$4,800
- 1 Assistant: \$2,700

### **Fabens ISD**

- 1 Head Coach responsible for Boys and Girls Programs: \$4,500
- 1 Assistant: \$2,700

### **San Elizario ISD** - Staff and Stipends

- 1 Head Boys Coach: \$3,500
- 1 Head Girls Coach: \$3,500

### **Amarillo HS** - Staff and Stipends

- 1 Head Coach responsible for Boys and Girls Programs: \$5,000
- 2 Assistant: \$4,000

### **Arlington HS (Dallas FW Area)**

- Boys Head Coach: \$11,000
- Girls Head Coach: \$11,000
- 2 Assistant coaches for each program: \$6,500

### **Allen HS (Dallas FW Area)**

- Boys Head Coach: \$10,000
- Girls Head Coach: \$10,000
- 3 Assistant coaches for each program: \$7,000

### **Johnson HS (San Antonio)**

- 1 Head Coach responsible for Boys and Girls Programs: \$10,000
- 1 Assistant coaches for each program: \$5,000

### **Austin Westlake HS (Austin)**

- Boys Head Coach: \$5,000
- 2 Assistant coaches: \$2,500

**Note:** It is understood that some of these districts are the wealthiest in the state; however, when looking at this years results, El Paso wrestling competes very well among them. Examples are as follows: Eastwood boys 3<sup>rd</sup>, Franklin boys 9<sup>th</sup>, Hanks Girls State Champions, and the Hanks boys 8<sup>th</sup>.

## **SOLUTION AND REASONING**

To continue and improve upon our success, we need your help with three request. The first, and most important, is that EPISD wrestling teams be staffed with separate head coaches for the boys and girls programs. The problems caused by trying to have one coach keep track of 2 separate programs is significant. Girls wrestling started in 1998 with a small number of female athletes. Over the past 15 years it has developed into a fully competitive sport with significant participation. It is not possible for one coach to give full attention to a team of girls while at the same time giving proper attention to a team of boys. The reality is that one or both programs tend to be neglected due to lack of proper staffing. At Franklin High School, our assistant coach has accepted the role of Girl's Head Coach without being compensated for it. Because of his dedication, our girl's program is now consistently competing as a top 15 team at the state level. The same is true regarding our boys program under my guidance. We are proud of our accomplishments but are struggling to maintain this level of success. As part of my research, I've gathered participation numbers from EPISD schools and other schools across El Paso. The following are the results of my gatherings which indicates the need for a head girls coach in most schools:

## **PARTICIPATION NUMBERS FOR WRESTLING**

Franklin HS: Boys 56, Girls 22

Austin HS: Boys 22, Girls 16

Chapin HS: Boys 55, Girls 15

Hanks HS: Boys 44, Girls 26

Coronado HS: Boys 34, Girls 11

Eastwood HS: Boys 48, Girls 15

El Paso HS: Boys 21, Girls 14

El Dorado HS: Boys 42, Girls 19

Bowie HS: Boys 23, Girls 8

Riverside HS: Boys 24, Girls 20

Jefferson HS: Boys 18, Girls 17

Del Valle HS: Boys 20, Girls 13

Burges HS: Boys 24, Girls 12

Parkland HS: Boys 30, Girls 10

Irvin HS: Boys 19, Girls 9

Fabens HS: Boys 27, Girls 9

Andress HS: Boys 17, Girls 12

San Elizario: Boys 15, Girls 10

The second request is to have a third coach as an assistant responsible for facilitating both programs. For example, at YISD, the third coach is hired based on participation numbers. That would be a perfect system for us at EPISD.

Lastly, I also request your consideration in increasing the stipend for Wrestling Coaches to be commensurate with those paid to coaches competing at our level across the state as we strive to provide our students with a successful experience.

Sincerely,

Jesse Almodovar

Franklin High School Head Wrestling Coach

2006-present