



Jamestown Public School District #1

ADAM GEHLHAR, SUPERINTENDENT
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September 9, 2026

North Dakota High School
Activities Association
PO Box 817
Valley City, ND 58072

NDHSAA Re-Alignment Committee & Board of Directors:

We are writing to you as directed by our Jamestown Public Schools Board of Education to formally request a regional reassignment from the West Region/Western Dakota Association (WDA) to the East Region/Eastern Dakota Conference (EDC).

Our primary concern is the **amount of school time lost due to the extensive travel required by our current region/conference alignment**. Student athletes regularly spend many hours traveling to and from competitions, often leaving school early and returning late at night. This travel creates a direct impact on academics. Students miss valuable instructional time and then must make up assignments, lessons, and assessments. Late-night returns during the school week also reduce the amount of time students have for homework and, importantly, adequate sleep. The resulting fatigue can affect their **focus, academic performance, and overall well-being**.

These same concerns affect our coaches and advisors. They are educators who must balance classroom responsibilities with their activity responsibilities. Long trips and late-night returns take them away from their classrooms and families and can require them to return to school the following morning after very little rest. This also has bearing on quality coaching candidates refraining from applying for coaching opportunities. Extensive travel also places additional demands on our limited supply of bus drivers and makes scheduling and rescheduling events more difficult. Weather delays and make-up contests can create even more missed school time.

Jamestown is geographically better aligned with schools in the East Region/Eastern Dakota Conference. Moving to the East Region would reduce travel time while providing greater scheduling flexibility and, most importantly, **allowing our students and staff to spend more time where they belong—at school, in the classroom, and getting the rest they need to be successful**. We believe this change would better support the educational mission of Jamestown High School while continuing to provide our students with quality athletic and activity opportunities. For these reasons, we respectfully ask the NDHSAA to give serious consideration to moving Jamestown High School from the West Region/WDA back to the East Region/EDC.

Thank you for your consideration and for your continued commitment to doing what is best for North Dakota students and schools.

Sincerely,

Adam Gehlar, Superintendent
Jamestown Public Schools

Darby Heinert, Principal
Jamestown High School

Jim Roaldson, Activities Director
Jamestown High School

The Mission of the Jamestown Public School District is Engaging Students with Challenging and Innovative Experiences to Prepare Them for Future Success.

The Jamestown Public School District does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, sex, or handicap in its employment policies/practices.