



Bill Hoffman
Clark County School District
5100 W. Sahara Ave.
Las Vegas, NV 89146

Pamela Sloan
Director of Athletics
Clark County School District
5100 W. Sahara Ave.
Las Vegas, NV 89146

Ray Mathis
Executive Director, Instructional
Support and Student Activities
Clark County School District
5100 W. Sahara Ave.
Las Vegas, NV 89146

Nevada Interscholastic Activities
Association Board of Directors
549 Court Street
Reno, NV 89501

AMERICAN CIVIL
LIBERTIES UNION OF
NEVADA
732 SOUTH SIXTH STREET
SUITE 200A
LAS VEGAS, NEVADA 89101
P/ 702.366.1536
F/ 702.366.1331
VEGAS@ACLUNV.ORG

Clark County School District Board
of Directors
5100 W. Sahara Ave.
Las Vegas, NV 89146

Mark Wood
District Attorney's Office
500 S. Grand Central Pkwy
Las Vegas, NV 89106

1325 AIRMOTIVE WAY
SUITE 202
RENO, NEVADA 89502
P/ 775.786.1033
F/ 775.786.0805
RENO@ACLUNV.ORG

December 30, 2009

Re: Constitutional Concerns Raised By Current NIAA and CCSD Policies For Athletic Participation

WWW.ACLUNV.ORG

Dear CCSD and NIAA:

I am writing on behalf of the American Civil Liberties Union of Nevada to encourage the acceptance of Academy for Individual Study Independent Study, ("AIS") credits towards academic eligibility in NIAA sanctioned athletics. We believe that the AIS Independent Study program represents an essential link to education for a broad spectrum of students, including homeless student athletes of Clark County. The current Clark County School District, ("CCSD") practice of disallowing AIS student participation in athletics unfairly impacts homeless student athletes who rely on the AIS Independent Study program to continue their studies of harsh economic conditions.

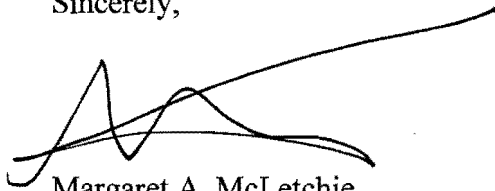
We appreciate that CCSD understands the severity of the current recession and the impact it is having on many of the students in Southern Nevada. As more and more families lose their homes or suffer tough economic losses, more and more students are forced to enroll in alternative education opportunities which CCSD provides, including the AIS Independent Study program. We also recognize that athletic competition in NIAA events is a privilege and not a right, but disallowing AIS students from participating while at the same time allowing home-schooled students

to participate appears to improperly discriminate against AIS students, many of whom are homeless. Further, it is hard to imagine a rational basis for not allowing AIS students to participate.

The current policy of not accepting AIS credits bars several economically disadvantaged student athletes from participation, and discourages others through conflicting responses, inconsistent rule application, and exorbitant appeals fees.

We hope that CCSD and NIAA structure new rules which allow AIS students to have the same access to NIAA sanctioned athletics afforded to students in traditional or home schools. We are encouraged that CCSD and NIAA are reviewing their policies, and welcome the opportunity to discuss the issue further.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of several overlapping loops and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Margaret A. McLetchie
Staff Attorney and Interim Southern Program Coordinator