



Start a **SPEECH AND DEBATE** **TEAM AT YOUR SCHOOL**

66 **As an athletic director, I've seen speech and debate become a cornerstone of our extra-curricular programming. Our student-athletes who competed in both sports and speech and debate developed stronger leadership, communication, confidence under pressure, and teamwork. These skills made them better competitors, captains, and representatives of our school. Our speech and debate program strengthened school culture, appealed to a diverse group of students, developed well-rounded individuals, and enhanced our overall academic excellence.**99

— AARON OSTERBEAL
former Athletic Director at
Regis Groff (Denver, Colorado)

Speech and debate is competitive speaking, acting, and debating.

We recognize different schools have various structures. This activity may be overseen by an athletic director, an activities director and sometimes an administrator.

The National Speech & Debate Association (NSDA) is the largest speech and debate organization in the United States, supporting interscholastic tournaments, schools, coaches, and students since 1925. Students compete in over ten different speech, public speaking, and acting events and five debate events across the country.

Speech and debate offers your school a unique opportunity to tap into a new group of students and to get more students engaged in building school culture and finding their passion.



DON'T need equipment!

DON'T need space!

Benefits

- Build stronger academically oriented athletes.
- Lower cost than adding a sport: all you need is a coach, NSDA membership (\$349 covers memberships for all students at your school), tournament entry fees, and transportation!
- Bring academic competition alongside sports competition.
- Increase parent engagement (parents can judge at tournaments).
- The academic benefit to cross over students in both speech and debate and sports supports eligibility concerns.
- Sports programs benefit from the academic benefits of speech and debate.

Considerations

- Athletic/Activity Director support looks different depending on the level of school support. For example, if this is an after-school program and you hire an external coach, the program will need more support from you. If it is embedded during the day, it is easier and works best with an internal teacher/coach who will run point on the program.
- Doesn't follow a particular season (unlike other sports).



www.speechanddebate.org/administrators

Questions?

Contact the Director of School Recruitment: elisha.roberts@speechanddebate.org