

**NDPS Certification Program
Field Project Report**

Fort Worth Police Athletic League Association
<https://www.Police.fortworthtexas.gov/Get-involved/police-athletic-league>
<https://www.facebook.com/fw.pal.33>

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Key words: *Mentorship, Motivation, Inspirational, After-school/Out-of-School Opportunities*

Funding Sources

The Fort Worth Police Athletic League (FWPAL) is funded solely by donations and contributions.

- The National Association of Police Athletics/Activities Leagues, Inc. (NPAL) Grant
- Walmart – Grants
- Crime Control and Prevention District (CCPD) Grant
- Payroll deduction (optional) for law enforcement officers (*\$3 x per pay period*)

Projected Cost and Budget Narrative

Funding for the project is \$100,000 per year which covers the following expenses:

- Facility Rentals
- Equipment
- Supplies
- Uniforms
- Marketing and Advertising

Project Scope and Setting

The Fort Worth Police Athletic League (FWPAL) is a non-profit organization that serves to strengthen ties with local law enforcement and the community. The scope and setting of FWPAL is to build relationships between police officers, community and youth. The Core Values are to develop students into **L.E.A.D.E.R.S**

- **L**eadership
- **E**thics
- **A**chievement
- **D**evelopment
- **E**ncouragement
- **R**espect
- **S**afety

Staffing Patterns

Coaches are comprised of law enforcement officers and volunteers. Officers receive comp time for approved events and may work before or after their regular work hours.

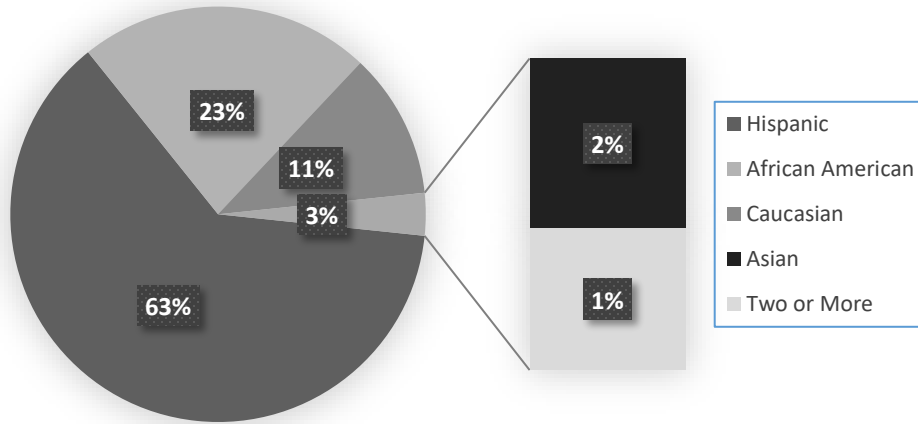
According to FWPAL Chairperson, Allen Speed, membership has doubled in size over the past two years. Nine sworn officers volunteer their time to coach. The number of non-officers was not available at time of interview.

Population Served

The population of the City of Fort Worth is 800,000. As of the 2017-2018 school year, the Fort Worth Independent School District (FWISD) had 86,039 students. 77.7% of those students were

identified as being at risk of dropping out of school. The FWPAL project is designed for early intervention from kindergarten through high school graduation.

Ethnicity Breakdown



Number of students enrolled in FWPAL as of February 18, 2020:

Basketball 620 Football 320 Cheerleading 50 Boxing 50

Project Origination

A group of dedicated officers from the Fort Worth Police Department and civilians noticed the need for after school and summer youth programs. The primary method of reaching youth was through athletic programs that offered hours directly after school and during the summertime. Operating during these times helped more youth from being unsupervised and provided them with engaging and positive relationships with officers who served as mentors and motivators to inspire and encourage them.

Issues Addressed

- School Truancy
- Poor or Failing Grades
- Discipline Problems
- Lack of Parental Involvement
- Lack of Funds

Desired Outcomes and Measurable Objectives

FWPAL does not physically keep track of data (grades, attendance, discipline, etc.). However, FWPAL does offer mentorship, wisdom, guidance and free participation. These are things at risk students are often not afforded.

- Decrease Dropout Rate
- Increase Attendance Rate
- Increase Grades
- Decrease Discipline Issues
- Increase Student Participation in Athletics

Strategies and/or Interventions of the Project

- No child left behind (due to financial obligations)
- Networking with community and key stakeholders
- Maintain current partnerships with local businesses
- Continue option for payroll deductions for city employees

Results (Outcomes and Achievements) Accomplished by the FWPAL

- Increased police and student engagement
- 13 students have obtained Golden Gloves Boxing Status (highest achievement for students 18 and under)
- FWPAL created the first Flex Flag Football League (flag football with padded helmets and pads) in Fort Worth, TX

Project Timeline

Timelines vary from sport to sport. Boxing gyms function year-round. Flag football, basketball and cheerleading are seasonal sports.

Outcomes Related to School Completion, Dropout Prevention and/or Graduation Rates

FWPAL provides opportunities and opens doors for students who society defines as at risk.

Special Conditions and/or Expertise Required to Carry Out Project

- Board meets once a month for planning discussions (present/future), compliance updates
- Community Perspective
- Police, School and community collaboration
- Afterschool (Out of school) opportunities
- Mentoring

Current Status of the FWPAL

Operational, growing, expanding, updated equipment

Role in the Project as a NDPS Certification Program Participant

While volunteering and working in the community, I had the pleasure of meeting officers who volunteer their time with FWPAL. Engaging in conversations, I learned that we each have a passion for working with at risk students. I use FWPAL as a resource with parents (K-12) when they are looking for programs for their students to participate in afterschool or summer activities.

Lessons Learned in Starting the FWPAL

Things do not happen overnight with non-profits. You must have a vision, plan, research, work hard, and find individuals who are dependable and passionate about kids.

Advice for Dropout Prevention Practitioners About the Project

Network! Network! Network! Reach out to other agencies with the same vision. Share best practices. Work with passion, purpose and perspective.

If someone from another school district or outside agency would like to replicate FWPAL or have additional questions or comments. Please reference the information below.

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