

NATIONAL FEDERATION OF STATE  
HIGH SCHOOL ASSOCIATIONS



## NEWS RELEASE

### James Weaver of South Dakota to Join NFHS Staff

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Bruce Howard

INDIANAPOLIS, IN (June 27, 2016) – James Weaver, who has served as the fine arts and performing arts curriculum coordinator for the Sioux Falls (South Dakota) Public Schools the past year, will join the staff of the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS) July 1 as director of performing arts and sports.

Weaver succeeds Susie Knoblauch, who returned to the Illinois High School Association as assistant executive director after two years on the NFHS staff.

As the district administrator of the fine arts and performing arts programs for the Sioux Falls schools, Weaver handled the K-12 curriculum for music, visual arts, speech, debate, theatre, journalism, student council and special education adaptive arts. He was responsible for 140 staff members across 37 buildings, rewriting of the K-12 fine arts curriculum and a multi-million-dollar budget.

Before he joined the Sioux Falls schools in August 2015, Weaver was assistant executive director in charge of fine arts for the South Dakota High School Activities Association (SDHSAA) for four years. In addition to handling four all-state music ensembles, speech, debate, theatre, journalism and student council, Weaver started a visual arts component within the SDHSAA. He also transferred all of the association's music programs to an online ballot system, which increased the speed and improved the accuracy of the music adjudication processes.

During his time with the SDHSAA and the Sioux Falls schools, Weaver contributed to several NFHS programs. He served a four-year term on the NFHS Music Committee and was beginning another term as chair of the committee. He also has been involved with the annual Debate Topic Selection Committee process and has contributed to development of new online music courses for the NFHS Learning Center.

Weaver began his professional career in 2005 as director of orchestras for the Perham (Minnesota) Public Schools for two years, followed by a four-year stint as director of orchestras for the Aberdeen (South Dakota) Public Schools

Weaver, who earned a bachelor of music degree from Concordia College in Minnesota and a master's degree in education from Northern State University in Aberdeen, South Dakota, will receive his doctorate in district administration from the University of South Dakota next month.

"We are excited to welcome James to the NFHS staff," said Bob Gardner, NFHS executive director. "He has brought tremendous energy and devotion to music and speech programs in Sioux Falls and throughout South Dakota, and we are looking forward to him doing the same at the national level."

In addition to directing NFHS speech, debate, music and theatre programs, Weaver will be the administrator for boys lacrosse, girls lacrosse and spirit. He will be staff liaison for the Boys Lacrosse Rules Committee, Girls Lacrosse Rules Committee, Spirit Rules Committee, Music Committee and Speech Committee.

\*\*\*

#### About the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFHS)

The NFHS, based in Indianapolis, Indiana, is the national leadership organization for high school sports and performing arts activities. Since 1920, the NFHS has led the development of education-based interscholastic sports and performing arts activities that help students succeed in their lives. The NFHS sets direction for the future by building awareness and support, improving the participation experience, establishing consistent standards and rules for competition, and helping those who oversee high school sports and activities. The NFHS writes playing rules for 16 sports for boys and girls at the high school level. Through its 50 member state associations and the District of Columbia, the NFHS reaches more than 19,000 high schools and 11 million participants in high school activity programs, including more than 7.8 million in high school sports. As the recognized national authority on interscholastic activity programs, the NFHS conducts national meetings; sanctions interstate events; offers online publications and services for high school coaches and officials; sponsors professional organizations for high school coaches, officials, speech and debate coaches, and music adjudicators; serves as the national source for interscholastic coach training; and serves as a national information resource of interscholastic athletics and activities. For more information, visit the NFHS website at [www.nfhs.org](http://www.nfhs.org).

MEDIA CONTACTS:

Bruce Howard, 317-972-6900  
Director of Publications and Communications  
National Federation of State High School Associations  
[bhoward@nfhs.org](mailto:bhoward@nfhs.org)

Chris Boone, 317-972-6900  
Assistant Director of Publications and Communications  
National Federation of State High School Associations  
[cboone@nfhs.org](mailto:cboone@nfhs.org)