

Date: February 7, 2025
To: Salt Lake City School District Board of Education
Superintendent Grant
From: Alan Kearsley, Business Administrator
Subject: ESports

Summary:

During the December 3rd Board Meeting, there was a presentation about ESports by Emily Sutherland and Nomani Satuala. I have attached that presentation. ESports has been sanctioned by the Utah High School Activities Association and during this discussion we would like to answer any additional questions prior to a possible vote for Salt Lake City School District to approve ESports as an authorized sport in the Salt Lake City School District.

For the three comprehensive high schools there is a total estimated one-time start-up cost of \$54,216. Ongoing costs are estimated at \$34,700 for coaches' salaries and \$6,000 for transportation costs. Other ongoing costs will be covered with participation fees.

Requested Board action:

Vote on approving Esports as an authorized sport in the Salt Lake City School District and the associated funding.

Attachments:

December 3, 2024 PowerPoint presentation

ESPORTS

Emily Sutherland & Nomani Satuala

December 3, 2024



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Introduction to Esports

What are Esports

Benefits of Esports

Participation in SLCSD

UHSAA Sanctioned for 25-26 School Year

Proposed Budget & Ongoing Costs

Recommendations



WHAT ARE ESPORTS?

Short for electronic sports.
“Simply put, esports are video games that are played in a highly organized competitive environment. These games can range from popular, team-oriented multiplayer online battle arenas (MOBAs), to single player first person shooters, to survival battle royales, to virtual reconstructions of physical sports (Leroux-Parra, 2020)”.

TYPES OF ESPORT GAMES:

- Rocket League
- Mario Kart 7 Deluxe
- Super Smash Bros
- League of Legends
- Valorant
- Overwatch 2



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BENEFITS

Community

“Esports has the power to bring students together in new and exciting ways, fostering teamwork, strategic thinking, and leadership skills” - Rob Cuff, Executive Director of UHSAA

Pathway to College

Universities have esports programs, athletes, scholarships, and careers in technology and gaming.

Academic Improvement

Opportunity for students to enhance their sense of belonging, fostering improved academic performance, much like traditional sports programs.



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CURRENT ESPORT CLUB PARTICIPATION

	EAST	HIGHLAND	WEST
BOYS	38	19	25
GIRLS	2	7	0
TOTAL	40	26	25



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UHSAA

Announced esports as a sanctioned activity, not a sport, starting 2025 – 2026 school year

Season will be from January through April. The beta Spring season will start in Spring 2025 and all SLCSD high schools would like to participate.

Over 40 Utah high schools currently compete with esports



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STARTUP BUDGET PROPOSAL

EQUIPMENT COSTS FOR ALL THREE HIGH SCHOOLS

	Price	Units	Total Cost
Nintendo OLED Switches	\$350	16	\$5,600
DLC Mario Kart	\$25	16	\$4,000
DLC Smash Fighters Pass	\$60	16	\$960
Nintendo Online Subscriptions	\$35	6	\$210
Pro Controllers	\$70	30	\$2,100
TVs	\$500	12	\$6,000
HDMI Cables	\$8	12	\$96
Wiring for Room	\$2,000	3	\$6,000
Computers	\$1,500	18	\$27,000
XBox Controllers	\$50	18	\$900
Playstation Controllers	\$75	18	\$1,350
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			\$54,216

TRANSPORTATION COSTS FOR ALL THREE HIGH SCHOOLS

\$6,000



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STARTUP BUDGET PROPOSAL

PERSONNEL COSTS FOR ALL THREE HIGH SCHOOLS

Coaches' Pay (Head & Assistant Coaches) \$34,700 (based off average current faculty sponsor daily rates for head coaches of esport student club)

Comparable to debate activity days: 16 days for head coach and 9 days for assistant coaches

TOTAL COSTS FOR ALL THREE HIGH SCHOOLS

Equipment	\$54,216
Transportation	\$6,000
Personnel	\$34,700
Total	\$94,916 (for all three high schools)
	\$31,639 average cost per school



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ONGOING COSTS

Equipment (e.g. membership, replacements) \$7,500 (for all three high schools)
Transportation \$6,000 (for all three high schools)
Coaches' Pay \$34,700 (for all three high schools)

Total **\$48,200** (for all three high schools)

\$16,067 (average cost per year for one high school)



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RECOMMENDATIONS

Salt Lake School District should sanction esports at the high school level

Approve startup budget and create ongoing esports costs in athletic budget

Coed varsity and junior varsity teams

QUESTIONS?



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REFERENCE

Leroux-Parra, M. (2020). What are Esports?. Harvard International Review. <https://hir.harvard.edu/esports-part-1-what-are-esports/>



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