



September 1, 2016

Dear school administrator or teacher,

[U.S. Figure Skating](#) is the National Governing Body (NGB) for figure skating in the United States, as recognized by the [U.S. Olympic Committee](#) and [International Skating Union](#). As a NGB, we oversee the qualifying competitive pipeline and eventual selection of athletes to represent the United States at international competitions, including the World Championships and Olympic Winter Games.

Synchronized skating is one of five official competitive disciplines of the sport, the others being men's and ladies singles, pairs, and ice dance. A student at your school or in your class is a member of a synchronized skating team, and the purpose of this letter is to request your help in supporting the student athletes that are training at your school

As a competitor in synchronized skating, these athletes are members of a team where 12-20 athletes skate together, performing intricate footwork while executing difficult formations. Teams spend many hours training with the ultimate goal of winning medals at the sectional, national and international levels.

The competitive structure for the sport of synchronized skating consists of the Eastern, Midwestern, or Pacific Coast Sectional Championships, with an opportunity for advancement to the U.S. Synchronized Skating Championships. Each season, the top teams are selected to represent the U.S. at international competitions around the world.

Students from your school are getting ready for the upcoming competitive season and need your help to lay out a plan for academic and athletic success. They are committed to excellence in the classroom, as well as the athletic arena. Training and travel to competitions will challenge their schedules. It is our hope, that through proper encouragement and planning, they can continue to advance academically, as well as athletically.

Below is a schedule of U.S. Figure Skating's qualifying competitive calendar for the 2016-17 competitive season. Teams often choose to participate in nonqualifying competitions throughout the season, as well, to prepare for these events.

Your school can help these athletes by encouraging their classroom teachers to find flexible alternatives. Teachers can help formulate a workable agreement, with the athlete and their families, that details when and how students will complete all work assigned or covered when the student is traveling for an event. This allows for each athlete to be successful in meeting his or her academic requirements, as well as pursuing their highest competitive goals. U.S. Figure Skating appreciates your support and consideration for these student athletes competing in synchronized skating.

If you are interested in learning more about your student's sport, please visit U.S. Figure Skating's synchronized skating website: <http://www.usfsa.org/programs?id=83953> and [www.icenetwork.com](http://www.icenetwork.com).

Sincerely,

Leslie Graham  
Director, Synchronized Skating & Skating Programs  
U.S. Figure Skating

**2016-17 U.S. Figure Skating Synchronized Skating Qualifying Competition Schedule:**

*2017 Eastern Synchronized Skating Sectional Championships – Hershey, Pennsylvania  
January 25-28, 2017*

*2017 Midwestern & Pacific Coast Synchronized Skating Sectional Championships – Grand Forks, North Dakota  
January 25-29, 2017*

*2017 U.S. Synchronized Skating Championships – Rockford, Illinois  
February 22-25, 2017*

U.S. Figure Skating  
20 First Street  
Colorado Springs, CO  
80906  
719.635.5200 Phone  
719.635.9548 Fax  
[usfigureskating.org](http://usfigureskating.org)



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