



Dear School Administrator:

During the week of **April 24 – May 1, 2023**, the **Interscholastic Equestrian Association (IEA)** will be hosting our 21<sup>st</sup> annual **National Finals** competition at the Tryon International Equestrian Center in Mill Spring, NC.

We are pleased to share that \_\_\_\_\_ is among nearly 550 student athletes who have qualified for this year's National Finals event which will require them to be absent a portion of time between April 24 and May 1, 2023 (*depending on travel plans and competition dates/times*).

Over the past 20 years, IEA has grown into the largest youth equestrian association in the nation with more than 14,600 members actively participating. Our mission is to introduce students in grades 4-8 (middle school) and 9-12 (high school) to equestrian sports and develop understanding and appreciation of equestrian sports through organized competitions and educational opportunities. In addition to the development of riders' skills, IEA offers many scholarship and leadership opportunities and awards and prepares students for collegiate riding programs and professions within the equine industry.

Youth who participate at this prestigious event are able to place themselves before some of the top college recruiters in the nation. The NCAA recently developed equestrian sport as a scholarship-eligible sport. Young horsemen/horsewomen are introduced to and eligible for scholarships from prestigious colleges and universities through this and other programs of the IEA.

IEA student athletes are among the most successful and well-rounded students academically. In addition to the focus on riding, IEA places a large emphasis on sportsmanship, teamwork, commitment, time-management and building important life-skills for the future. This event is an excellent opportunity for our riders to interact and compete with other youth equestrian athletes from across the nation.

IEA was founded in 2002 on the principle of recognizing equestrian athletes with the same support and recognition as other student athletes participating in school-sponsored sport programs. We are extremely proud of each of our National Qualifiers and kindly request that you will recognize this outstanding achievement by excusing the absence. We greatly appreciate your understanding and flexibility in this matter and invite you to learn more about the mission and programs of IEA by visiting [www.RideIEA.org](http://www.RideIEA.org).

Respectfully,

Roxane Durant  
Co-Founder and Executive Director  
Interscholastic Equestrian Association

Student Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Coach Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

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