



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**October, 3, 2025**

**LHSAA LAUNCHES THE LOUISIANA PROJECT, A COMPREHENSIVE RESEARCH INITIATIVE TO SAFEGUARD STUDENT-ATHLETES ACROSS THE STATE**

**Baton Rouge, LA** — The Louisiana High School Athletic Association (LHSAA) and EverRise ([www.everrise.ai](http://www.everrise.ai)), a national research and leadership development company, have announced the launch of The Louisiana Project, a groundbreaking initiative designed to gather critical data and insights to quantify the impact coaching has on the academic, social and emotional growth of high school student-athletes across the state.

The project builds on the findings of EverRise's landmark report, *The State of Coaching: Understanding the Impact and Future*, which analyzed data from over 45,000 student-athletes across 24 states — including Louisiana. That study revealed compelling insights into how coaching quality directly affects student performance. For example, athletes coached by leaders strong in connection and communication saw GPA increases of 0.61 points on a 4.0 scale. Those coached by connected and structured leaders attended 12 more days of school than their peers — equating to over two weeks of additional instruction.

The Louisiana Project focuses specifically on Louisiana's coaching landscape and student-athlete experience with a goal of empowering schools, coaches, and policymakers with actionable insights to improve outcomes statewide.

"This study is essential to provide the data needed to protect student-athletes and understand the full impact of high school sports," LHSAA Executive Director Eddie Bonine said. "By including schools across the state, we can ensure every student's experience is represented and that Louisiana leads the way in evidence-based support for its student-athletes."

"The changing landscape in high school and college athletics demands validated research and data for every state and locality, as they all are dealing with a multitude of challenges and needs," EverRise President and Chief Strategy Officer Chuck Schmidt said. "We anticipate this is the first of many such studies."

EverRise will conduct assessments with thousands of student-athletes across multiple sports and school types — urban, rural, large, small, public, and private — to build a robust and representative dataset. These assessments will measure academic performance, attendance, engagement, and personal development, with the goal of quantifying the impact of coaches and athletic programs on student-athletes' growth.



### **About the LHSAA**

In October of 1920, a group of high school principals met in Baton Rouge to discuss ways to better regulate and advance high school interscholastic athletic programs. This meeting led to the formation of the Louisiana High School Athletic Association. Since then, its executive directors, staff, and member-school principals have led education-based athletics in the State of Louisiana.

### **EverRise Institute**

EverRise is a national research and leadership development company focused on elevating the student and athlete experience by empowering the leaders who guide them. By redefining what effective leadership looks like, EverRise strives to transform education and athletics into powerful drivers of personal growth, academic success, and lifelong well-being.

### **FAIR (Foundation for the Advancement of Interscholastic Resources)**

The FAIR Foundation is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization led by a dedicated board of educators, coaches, and community leaders who believe in the power of service, education, and sports to shape young lives. FAIR's mission is to equip those who support students and student-athletes with the resources, training, and strategic support they need to make lasting impact—on and off the field.