



To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing to request that students participating in the U14 Speed States at Gore be excused from school to attend this important New York State championship event. Due to travel and competition scheduling, athletes may need to be excused the day prior to the start of the event as well as the day following its conclusion. The competition will be held February 20, 2026 through February 22, 2026 at Gore Mountain.

The U14 Speed States is a premier statewide championship event focused on the speed disciplines of alpine ski racing. Athletes work through season-long earning their place through consistent training and competition. Participation represents both a significant athletic achievement and an important step in the New York State alpine development pathway.

In addition to competition, the event provides valuable experience in higher-level racing environments, course inspection, race preparation, and on-snow skill development specific to the speed disciplines.

We understand the importance of academic responsibilities and sincerely appreciate your support in allowing these student-athletes to represent their schools and communities. All participating students are expected to communicate with their teachers in advance, complete any missed assignments, and make up instructional time upon their return.

Thank you for your cooperation and continued support of our student-athletes. If you require any additional information or documentation, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Caitlin H. Croft". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Caitlin H. Croft
Executive Director
New York State Ski Racing Association
croft@nyssra.org