

## Senate Bill No. 92

An act relating to education; amending s. 232.425, F.S., relating to student standards for participation in interscholastic extracurricular student activities; deleting intent language regarding providing a mechanism for all students to participate in interscholastic extracurricular activities; revising provisions relating to the grade point average required for participation in interscholastic extracurricular student activities; requiring a contract to be executed upon a student's falling below a certain cumulative grade point average; amending s. 232.61, F.S., relating to bylaws relating to student eligibility adopted by the governing organization for athletics; providing an effective date.

Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

Section 1. Subsections (2) and (3) of section 232.425, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

232.425 Student standards for participation in interscholastic extracurricular student activities; regulation.—

(2) The Legislature recognizes the importance of interscholastic extracurricular student activities as a complement to the academic curriculum. Participation in a comprehensive extracurricular and academic program contributes to student development of the social and intellectual skills necessary to become a well-rounded adult. ~~It is the intent of the Legislature to provide the mechanism for all students in Florida to participate in interscholastic extracurricular activities.~~ As used in this section, the term "extracurricular" means any school-authorized or education-related activity occurring during or outside the regular instructional school day.

(3)(a) To be eligible to participate in interscholastic extracurricular student activities, a student ~~entering the 9th grade during the 1997-1998 school year and thereafter~~ must:

1. Maintain a grade point average of 2.0 or above on a 4.0 scale, or its equivalent, ~~in the previous semester or a cumulative grade point average of 2.0 or above on a 4.0 scale, or its equivalent, in the courses required by s. 232.246(1).~~

2. Execute and fulfill the requirements of an academic performance contract between the student, the school district, the appropriate governing association, and the student's parents or guardian, if the student's cumulative grade point average falls below 2.0, or its equivalent, on a 4.0 scale in the courses required by s. 232.246(1) or, for ~~In order to be eligible under this section,~~ students who entered the 9th grade prior to the 1997-1998 school year, ~~if the student's must maintain a cumulative grade point average falls below of 2.0 or above on a 4.0 scale, or its equivalent, in the courses required by s. 232.246(1) that are taken after July 1, 1997, or have an overall cumulative grade point average of 2.0 or above.~~ At a minimum, the contract must

require that the student attend summer school, or its graded equivalent, between grades 9 and 10 or grades 10 and 11, as necessary.

3. ~~Have a cumulative grade point average of 2.0 or above on a 4.0 scale, or its equivalent, in the courses required by s. 232.246(1) during his or her junior or senior year. Eligibility for the first semester of the 1997-1998 school year for those students who entered the 9th grade prior to the 1997-1998 school year shall be based on the school board's policy in effect for the 1996-1997 school year.~~

4. ~~Additionally, a student must~~ Maintain satisfactory conduct and, if a student is convicted of, or is found to have committed, a felony or a delinquent act which would have been a felony if committed by an adult, regardless of whether adjudication is withheld, the student's participation in interscholastic extracurricular activities is contingent upon established and published school board policy.

(b) Any student who is exempt from attending a full school day under s. 228.041(13) must maintain the grade point average required by this section and pass each class for which he or she is enrolled.

(c) An individual home education student is eligible to participate at the a public school to which the student would be assigned according to district school attendance area policies or which the student could choose to attend pursuant to district or interdistrict controlled open enrollment provisions, ~~or~~ and may develop an agreement to participate at a nonpublic school, in the interscholastic extracurricular activities of that school, provided the following conditions are met:

1. The home education student must meet the requirements of the home education program pursuant to s. 232.0201.

2. During the period of participation at a school, the home education student must demonstrate educational progress as required in paragraph (b) in all subjects taken in the home education program by a method of evaluation agreed upon by the parent or guardian and the principal which may include: review of the student's work by a certified teacher chosen by the parent; grades earned through correspondence; grades earned in courses taken at a community college, university, or trade school; standardized test scores above the 35th percentile; or any other method designated in s. 232.0201.

3. The home education student must meet the same residency requirements as other students in the school at which he or she participates.

4. The home education student must meet the same standards of acceptance, behavior, and performance as required of other students in extracurricular activities.

5. The student must register with the school his or her intent to participate in interscholastic extracurricular activities as a representative of the school before the beginning date of the season for the activity in which he or she wishes to participate. A home education student must be able to

participate in curricular activities if that is a requirement for an extracurricular activity.

6. A student who transfers from a home education program to a public school before or during the first grading period of the school year is academically eligible to participate in interscholastic extracurricular activities during the first grading period provided the student has a successful evaluation from the previous school year, pursuant to subparagraph 2.

7. Any public school or nonpublic school student who has been unable to maintain academic eligibility for participation in interscholastic extracurricular activities is ineligible to participate in such activities as a home education student until the student has successfully completed one grading period in home education pursuant to subparagraph 2. to become eligible to participate as a home education student.

Section 2. Section 232.61, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

232.61 Governing organization for athletics; adoption of bylaws.—The organization shall adopt bylaws that, unless specifically provided by statute, establish eligibility requirements for all students who participate in high school athletic competition in its member schools. The bylaws governing residence and transfer shall allow the student to be eligible in the school in which he or she first enrolls each school year, or makes himself or herself a candidate for an athletic team by engaging in a practice prior to enrolling in any member school. The student shall be eligible in that school so long as he or she remains enrolled in that school. Subsequent eligibility shall be determined and enforced through the organization's bylaws. ~~Where the student lives, with whom the student lives, or which school the student attended the previous year shall not be a factor in determining eligibility.~~ The organization shall also adopt bylaws that specifically prohibit the recruiting of students for athletic purposes. The bylaws shall prescribe penalties and an appeals process for athletic recruiting violations.

Section 3. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law.

Approved by the Governor April 20, 2000.

Filed in Office Secretary of State April 20, 2000.