

CHAPTER 2011-117

House Bill No. 797

An act relating to interscholastic and intrascholastic sports; amending s. 1006.15, F.S.; removing certain provisions relating to a pilot program in which a middle school student or a high school student in a private school may participate in athletics at a public school; providing for statewide implementation of the program; requiring that the athletic director of each public school maintain the records of students participating in the program; requiring that any private school that is not a member of the Florida High School Athletic Association make the records of participating students available to the association upon request; requiring that a student apply to participate in the program through the appropriate application process; limiting participation in the program to students who are enrolled in non-FHSAA member private schools consisting of a maximum number of students; providing an effective date.

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

Section 1. Subsection (8) of section 1006.15, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

1006.15 Student standards for participation in interscholastic and intrascholastic extracurricular student activities; regulation.—

(8)(a) The Florida High School Athletic Association (FHSAA), in cooperation with each the district school board ~~boards of Bradford County, Duval County, and Nassau County,~~ shall facilitate a 2-year pilot program during the 2008-2009 and 2009-2010 academic years in which a middle school or high school student who attends a private school shall be eligible to participate in an interscholastic or intrascholastic sport at a public high school, a public middle school, or a 6-12 public school that is zoned for the physical address at which the student resides if:

1. The private school in which the student is enrolled is not a member of the FHSAA and does not offer an interscholastic or intrascholastic athletic program.

2. The private school student meets the guidelines for the conduct of the ~~pilot~~ program established by the FHSAA's board of directors and the ~~participating~~ district school board ~~boards.~~ At a minimum, such guidelines shall provide:

a. A deadline for each sport by which the private school student's parents must register with the public school in writing their intent for their child to participate at that school in the sport.

b. Requirements for a private school student to participate, including, but not limited to, meeting the same standards of eligibility, acceptance,

behavior, educational progress, and performance ~~which~~ that apply to other students participating in interscholastic or intrascholastic sports at a public school or FHSAA member private school.

(b) The parents of a private school student participating in a public school sport under this subsection are responsible for transporting their child to and from the public school at which the student participates. The private school the student attends, the public school at which the student participates in a sport, the district school board, and the FHSAA are exempt from civil liability arising from any injury that occurs to the student during such transportation.

(c) For each academic year, a private school student may only participate at the public school in which the student is first registered under sub-subparagraph (a)2.a. or makes himself or herself a candidate for an athletic team by engaging in a practice.

(d) The athletic director of each participating FHSAA member public school shall maintain the student records necessary for eligibility, compliance, and participation in the program.

(e) Any non-FHSAA member private school that has a student who wishes to participate in this program must make all student records, including, but not limited to, academic, financial, disciplinary, and attendance records, available upon request of the FHSAA.

(f) A student must apply to participate in this program through the FHSAA program application process.

(g) Only students who are enrolled in non-FHSAA member private schools consisting of 125 students or fewer are eligible to participate in the program in any given academic year.

~~(d) The FHSAA and participating district school boards shall submit to the Governor, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives:~~

~~1. A copy of the guidelines established under subparagraph (a)2. for the pilot program no later than August 1, 2008.~~

~~2. A report on the progress of the pilot program no later than January 1, 2010. The report shall include the number of students registered under subparagraph (a)2.a., the number of students found eligible to participate in the pilot program, the number of students who transfer to the public schools at which the students participated under the pilot program, implementation issues experienced with the pilot program, and recommendations on how the pilot program may be improved and expanded to include other counties.~~

~~(e) This subsection shall stand repealed on June 30, 2010, unless reviewed and reenacted by the Legislature.~~

Section 2. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law.

Approved by the Governor June 2, 2011.

Filed in Office Secretary of State June 2, 2011.