

CHAPTER 2025-52

Committee Substitute for Committee Substitute for Senate Bill No. 248

An act relating to student participation in interscholastic and intrascholastic extracurricular sports; amending s. 1006.15, F.S.; providing that an activity or a sport must meet specified requirements; specifying conditions for a home education student to participate in interscholastic athletics; revising the criteria a private school student must meet to participate in a sport at a Florida High School Athletic Association (FHSAA) member school; deleting a provision limiting which non-FHSAA member private school students are eligible to participate in FHSAA sports; amending s. 1006.20, F.S.; requiring the publication of appeal decisions online; providing requirements for such publication; providing an effective date.

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

Section 1. Subsection (2), paragraph (c) of subsection (3), and paragraphs (a), (e), and (g) of subsection (8) of section 1006.15, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

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

(2) Interscholastic extracurricular student activities are an important 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. 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. In the determination of whether a school offers an activity or a sport, the activity or sport must meet the designation requirements of s. 1006.205(3)(a).

(3)

(c)1. An individual home education student is eligible to participate at the public school to which the student would be assigned according to district school board attendance area policies or which the student could choose to attend pursuant to s. 1002.31, or may develop an agreement to participate at a private school, in the interscholastic extracurricular activities of that school, provided the following conditions are met:

a.1. The home education student must meet the requirements of the home education program pursuant to s. 1002.41.

b.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 and the school 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 Florida College System institution, university, or trade school; standardized test scores above the 35th percentile; or any other method designated in s. 1002.41.

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

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

e.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 participation. A home education student must be able to participate in curricular activities if that is a requirement for an extracurricular activity.

f.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 sub-subparagraph b. subparagraph 2.

g.7. Any public school or private 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 sub-subparagraph b. subparagraph 2. to become eligible to participate as a home education student.

2. An individual home education student is eligible to participate on an interscholastic athletic team at any public school in the school district in which the student resides, provided the student meets the conditions specified in sub-subparagraphs 1.a.-g.

(8)(a) The Florida High School Athletic Association (FHSAA) shall, in cooperation with each district school board and its member private schools, facilitate a program in which a middle school or high school student who attends a private school is eligible to participate in an interscholastic or intrascholastic sport at a member public high school, a member public middle school, a member 6-12 public school, or a member private school, as appropriate for the private school student's grade level, if:

1. The private school in which the student is enrolled is not a member of the FHSAA or the private school in which the student is enrolled is a

member of the FHSAA and does not offer the sport in which the student wishes to participate.

2. The private school student meets the guidelines for the conduct of the program established by the FHSAA’s board of directors and the district school board or member private school. At a minimum, such guidelines must provide a deadline for each sport by which the private school student’s parents must register with the member school in writing their intent for their child to participate at that school in the sport.

(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.~~

~~(g) Only students who are enrolled in non-FHSAA member private schools consisting of 200 students or fewer are eligible to participate in the program in any given academic year.~~

Section 2. Paragraph (h) is added to subsection (7) of section 1006.20, Florida Statutes, to read:

1006.20 Athletics in public K-12 schools.—

(7) APPEALS.—

(h) Decisions made by the committee on appeals, the executive director or his or her designee, and the FHSAA board of directors must be posted online in a searchable format and be in compliance with ss. 1002.22 and 1002.221.

Section 3. This act shall take effect July 1, 2025.

Approved by the Governor May 21, 2025.

Filed in Office Secretary of State May 21, 2025.