

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA  
SESSION 2015**

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**HOUSE BILL 484**

Short Title: Home Schoolers Participate in School Sports. (Public)

Sponsors: Representatives Cleveland, Dobson, McElraft, and Yarborough (Primary Sponsors).

*For a complete list of Sponsors, refer to the North Carolina General Assembly Web Site.*

Referred to: Education - K-12, if favorable, Local Government, if favorable, Appropriations.

April 2, 2015

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT TO PERMIT HOME SCHOOLED STUDENTS IN CERTAIN LOCAL SCHOOL ADMINISTRATIVE UNITS TO PARTICIPATE IN INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETICS.

The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

**SECTION 1.** G.S. 115C-12(23) reads as rewritten:

**"§ 115C-12. Powers and duties of the Board generally.**

The general supervision and administration of the free public school system shall be vested in the State Board of Education. The State Board of Education shall establish policy for the system of free public schools, subject to laws enacted by the General Assembly. The powers and duties of the State Board of Education are defined as follows:

...  
(23) Power to Adopt Eligibility Rules for Interscholastic Athletic Competition. – The State Board of Education shall adopt rules governing interscholastic athletic activities conducted by local boards of education, including eligibility for student participation. Students attending home schools shall be permitted to participate in interscholastic athletic activities in accordance with the requirements of G.S. 115C-565.1. With regard to middle schools and high schools, the rules shall provide for the following:

a. All coaches, school nurses, athletic directors, first responders, volunteers, students who participate in interscholastic athletic activities, and the parents of those students shall receive, on an annual basis, a concussion and head injury information sheet. School employees, first responders, volunteers, and students must sign the sheet and return it to the coach before they can participate in interscholastic athletic activities, including tryouts, practices, or competition. Parents must sign the sheet and return it to the coach before their children can participate in any such interscholastic athletic activities. The signed sheets shall be maintained in accordance with sub-subdivision d. of this subdivision.

For the purpose of this subdivision, a concussion is a traumatic brain injury caused by a direct or indirect impact to the head that results in disruption of normal brain function, which may or may not result in loss of consciousness.



- 1                   b.     If a student participating in an interscholastic athletic activity  
2                   exhibits signs or symptoms consistent with concussion, the student  
3                   shall be removed from the activity at that time and shall not be  
4                   allowed to return to play or practice that day. The student shall not  
5                   return to play or practice on a subsequent day until the student is  
6                   evaluated by and receives written clearance for such participation  
7                   from (i) a physician licensed under Article 1 of Chapter 90 of the  
8                   General Statutes with training in concussion management, (ii) a  
9                   neuropsychologist licensed under Article 18A of Chapter 90 of the  
10                  General Statutes with training in concussion management and  
11                  working in consultation with a physician licensed under Article 1 of  
12                  Chapter 90 of the General Statutes, (iii) an athletic trainer licensed  
13                  under Article 34 of Chapter 90 of the General Statutes, (iv) a  
14                  physician assistant, consistent with the limitations of G.S. 90-18.1, or  
15                  (v) a nurse practitioner, consistent with the limitations of  
16                  G.S. 90-18.2.
- 17                  c.     Each school shall develop a venue specific emergency action plan to  
18                  deal with serious injuries and acute medical conditions in which the  
19                  condition of the patient may deteriorate rapidly. The plan shall  
20                  include a delineation of roles, methods of communication, available  
21                  emergency equipment, and access to and plan for emergency  
22                  transport. This plan must be (i) in writing, (ii) reviewed by an athletic  
23                  trainer licensed in North Carolina, (iii) approved by the principal of  
24                  the school, (iv) distributed to all appropriate personnel, (v) posted  
25                  conspicuously at all venues, and (vi) reviewed and rehearsed  
26                  annually by all licensed athletic trainers, first responders, coaches,  
27                  school nurses, athletic directors, and volunteers for interscholastic  
28                  athletic activities.
- 29                  d.     Each school shall maintain complete and accurate records of its  
30                  compliance with the requirements of this subdivision pertaining to  
31                  head injuries.

32                         The State Board of Education may authorize a designated organization to  
33                         apply and enforce the Board's rules governing participation in interscholastic  
34                         athletic activities at the high school level."

35                         **SECTION 2.** G.S. 115C-47(4) reads as rewritten:

36                         "**§ 115C-47. Powers and duties generally.**

37                         In addition to the powers and duties designated in G.S. 115C-36, local boards of education  
38                         shall have the power or duty:

- 39                         ...
- 40                         (4)     To Regulate Extracurricular Activities. – Local boards of education shall  
41                         make all rules and regulations necessary for the conducting of  
42                         extracurricular activities in the schools under their supervision, including a  
43                         program of athletics, where desired, without assuming liability therefore;  
44                         provided, that all interscholastic athletic activities shall be conducted in  
45                         accordance with rules and regulations prescribed by the State Board of  
46                         ~~Education.~~ Education, and that students attending home schools shall be  
47                         permitted to participate in interscholastic athletic activities in accordance  
48                         with the requirements of G.S. 115C-565.1."

49                         **SECTION 3.** Article 39 of Chapter 115C of the General Statutes is amended by  
50                         adding a new section to read:

51                         "**§ 115C-565.1. Participation of home schooled students in interscholastic athletics.**

1       (a) Eligibility. – To be eligible to participate in interscholastic public school athletics, a  
2 home schooled student shall meet the residency criteria of G.S. 115C-366 and shall participate  
3 only at the school to which the student would be assigned by the local board of education if  
4 enrolled in public school.

5       (b) Compliance With Rules. – A home schooled student shall comply with all rules and  
6 regulations established by the local board of education and the State Board of Education,  
7 except that a home schooled student shall not be required to meet school enrollment  
8 requirements. The home schooled student shall meet the same standards of acceptance,  
9 behavior, and performance as required of enrolled public school students participating in  
10 interscholastic athletics.

11       (c) Academic Progress. –

12           (1) Academic eligibility required for participation. – A student who has not met  
13 established academic eligibility requirements for athletic participation shall  
14 be ineligible to participate in interscholastic athletics as a home schooled  
15 student until academic eligibility is established.

16           (2) Assessment of academic progress. – A home schooled student shall  
17 demonstrate any required academic eligibility in all subjects taken in the  
18 home schooled program by a method of evaluation agreed upon by the  
19 parent and the school principal.

20       (d) Registration. – A home schooled student shall register with the school the student's  
21 intent to participate in interscholastic athletics before the beginning date of the season for the  
22 activity in which the student wishes to participate.

23       (e) Fees and Insurance. – A home schooled student shall be required to pay any fees for  
24 participation required of enrolled public school students and shall be required to purchase any  
25 supplemental insurance required of enrolled public school students or as reasonably established  
26 for home school participation.

27       (f) Principal Discretion. – The principal of the school at which a home schooled student  
28 would like to participate in interscholastic athletics shall make the final determination on  
29 whether to allow that student to participate. The student may not appeal the principal's final  
30 determination."

31       **SECTION 4.** This act applies only to home schooled students residing in counties  
32 with a population of 200,000 or less.

33       **SECTION 5.** This act is effective when it becomes law and applies beginning with  
34 the 2015-2016 school year.