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2 An act relating to interscholastic
3 extracurricular student activities; amending s.
4 232.425, F.S., relating to student standards
5 for participation in interscholastic
6 extracurricular student activities; defining
7 the term "extracurricular"; providing for the
8 accessibility of such activities to home
9 education students; providing an effective
10 date.

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

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14 Section 1. Subsections (2), (3), and (4) of section
15 232.425, Florida Statutes, 1996 Supplement, are amended to
16 read:

17 232.425 Student standards for participation in
18 interscholastic extracurricular student activities;
19 regulation.--

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

1 (3)(a) To be eligible to participate in
2 interscholastic extracurricular student activities, a student
3 must maintain a grade point average of 1.5 on a 4.0 scale, or
4 its equivalent, and must pass five subjects for the grading
5 period immediately preceding participation; except that
6 student eligibility for the first grading period of each new
7 school year shall be based on passing five subjects and
8 maintaining the required grade point average the previous
9 school year, including subjects completed during the interim
10 summer school session.

11 (b) Any student who is exempt from attending a full
12 school day under s. 228.041(13) must maintain a 1.5 grade
13 point average and pass each class for which he or she is
14 enrolled.

15 (c) An individual home education student shall be
16 eligible to participate at a public school, and may develop an
17 agreement to participate at a nonpublic school, in the
18 interscholastic extracurricular activities of that school,
19 provided the following conditions are met:

20 1. The home education student must meet the
21 requirements of the home education program pursuant to s.
22 232.02(4).

23 2. During the period of participation at a school, the
24 home education student must demonstrate educational progress
25 as required in paragraph (b) in all subjects taken in the home
26 education program by a method of evaluation agreed upon by the
27 parent and the principal which may include: review of the
28 student's work by a certified teacher chosen by the parent;
29 grades earned through correspondence; grades earned in courses
30 taken at a community college, university, or trade school;

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1 standardized test scores above the 35th percentile; or any
2 other method designated in s. 232.02(4).

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

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

9 5. The student must register with the school his or
10 her intent to participate in interscholastic extracurricular
11 activities as a representative of the school prior to the
12 beginning date of the season for the activity in which he or
13 she wishes to participate. A home education student must be
14 able to participate in curricular activities if that is a
15 requirement for an extracurricular activity.

16 6. A student who transfers from a home education
17 program to a public school prior to or during the first
18 grading period of the school year shall be academically
19 eligible to participate in interscholastic extracurricular
20 activities during the first grading period provided the
21 student has a successful evaluation from the previous school
22 year, pursuant to subparagraph 2.

23 7. Any public school or nonpublic school student who
24 has been unable to maintain academic eligibility for
25 participation in interscholastic extracurricular activities
26 shall be ineligible to participate in such activities as a
27 home education student until such time as the student has
28 successfully completed one grading period in home education
29 pursuant to subparagraph 2. to become eligible to participate
30 as a home education student.

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1 (4) The student standards for participation in
2 interscholastic extracurricular activities must ~~shall~~ be
3 applied beginning with the student's first semester of the 9th
4 grade. Each student must meet such other requirements for
5 participation as may be established by the school district;
6 however, a school district may not establish requirements for
7 participation in interscholastic extracurricular activities
8 which make participation in such activities less accessible to
9 home education students than to other students. Except as set
10 forth in paragraph (3)(c), evaluation processes or
11 requirements that are placed on home education student
12 participants may not go beyond those that apply under s.
13 232.02 to home education students generally.

14 Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 1997.
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