

FLORIDA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES BILL ANALYSIS

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BILL #: [CS/HB 151](#)

TITLE: Private School Student Participation In Interscholastic and Intrascholastic Extracurricular Sports

SPONSOR(S): Abbott

COMPANION BILL: [SB 248](#) (Simon)

LINKED BILLS: None

RELATED BILLS: None

Committee References

[Student Academic Success](#)

15 Y, 0 N, As CS



[Education & Employment](#)

SUMMARY

Effect of the Bill:

The bill expands the ability of private school students to participate in interscholastic athletics at Florida High School Athletic Association (FHSAA) member public and private schools by amending the requirement that the private school the student attends not be a FHSAA member and removing enrollment limits. Under the bill, an otherwise eligible student may participate in a sport at a member school if the private school the student attends does not offer that sport.

Fiscal or Economic Impact:

None

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ANALYSIS

EFFECT OF THE BILL:

The bill amends the program operated by the [Florida High School Athletic Association](#) (FHSAA) in conjunction with member school districts and member private schools that allows [private school student participation in interscholastic athletics](#) at member schools. The bill removes the prohibition on participation in the program by students attending member private schools. The bill implements a general requirement for all private schools that a student may not participate in the program if the desired sport is offered by the school that the student attends. Additionally, the bill removes the requirement that a private school have enrollment of 200 or fewer students in order to participate in the program.

The bill expands the ability of private school students to participate in interscholastic athletics at FHSAA member schools. If passed, an otherwise eligible student at any private school could participate in athletics at a member public or private school as long as the school the student attends does not offer the desired sport. (Section [1](#)).

The effective date of the bill is July 1, 2025, (Section [2](#)).

RELEVANT INFORMATION

SUBJECT OVERVIEW:

[Florida High School Athletic Association](#)

The Florida High School Athletic Association (FHSAA) is statutorily designated as the governing nonprofit organization for interscholastic athletics for grades 6 through 12 in Florida public schools. Any high school, middle

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school, or combination school,¹ including charter schools, virtual schools, private schools, and home education cooperatives,² may become a member of the FHSAA. The FHSAA is prohibited from denying or discouraging interscholastic competition between its member schools and non-FHSAA member schools in Florida and may not take discriminatory or retributory action against a member school that engages in interscholastic competition with non-FHSAA member schools.³ The FHSAA is required to adopt bylaws regulating student eligibility, recruiting, and member schools' interscholastic competition in accordance with applicable law.⁴

[Private School Student Participation in Interscholastic Athletics](#)

The FHSAA, member school districts, and member private schools must establish a program through which private school students may participate in interscholastic sports at member public schools and member private schools. A private school student shall be eligible to participate in interscholastic athletics at a member public middle school, member public high school, member public 6-12 school, or member private school, if the private school that he or she attends is not a member of the FHSAA and he or she meets the guidelines for such participation established by the FHSAA and the district school board or member private school. Each academic year, a student participating in this program may only participate at the public school where the student first registers or makes himself or herself a candidate for an athletic team by engaging in a practice.⁵

The private school the participating student attends is required to share any of the participating student's education records necessary for the operation of the program with the FHSAA, upon request. The athletic director at the public school where the private school student participates is required to maintain any necessary education records.⁶

Only students attending private schools that are not members of the FHSAA and that have 200 or fewer students are authorized to participate in this program. Eligible students must apply using the FHSAA application process.⁷ The parents of a participating student are responsible for transporting the student to and from the public school at which he or she participates.⁸

RECENT LEGISLATION:

YEAR	BILL #	HOUSE SPONSOR(S)	SENATE SPONSOR	OTHER INFORMATION
2023	CS/CS/HB 225	Hawkins, Canady	Collins	Became law on July 1, 2023.
2023	CS/HB 259	Brackett	Grall	Became law on July 1, 2023.

¹ A "combination school" is any school that provides instruction to students in high school and the middle school grades; elementary, middle or high school grades combined; or elementary and middle grades combined (e.g. K-12; K-8; 6-12; or 7-12). Bylaw 3.2.2.3, FHSAA.

² A "home education cooperative" is a parent-directed group of individual home education students that provides opportunities for interscholastic athletic competition to those students and may include students in grades 6-12. Bylaw 3.2.2.4, FHSAA.

³ S. [1006.20\(1\), F.S.](#)

⁴ S. [1006.20\(2\), F.S.](#)

⁵ S. [1006.15\(8\), F.S.](#)

⁶ S. [1006.15\(8\)\(e\) and \(d\), F.S.](#)

⁷ S. [1006.15\(8\)\(g\) and \(f\), F.S.](#)

⁸ S. [1006.15\(8\)\(b\), F.S.](#) Additionally, this provision shields the FHSAA, the public school at which the student is participating, the district school board operating the school, and the private school the student attends from civil liability for any injuries that occur during such transportation.

BILL HISTORY

COMMITTEE REFERENCE	ACTION	DATE	STAFF DIRECTOR/ POLICY CHIEF	ANALYSIS PREPARED BY
Student Academic Success Subcommittee	15 Y, 0 N, As CS	2/4/2025	Sanchez	Wolff
THE CHANGES ADOPTED BY THE COMMITTEE: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clarified that a student at a private school, regardless of that school’s FHSAA membership status, may participate in interscholastic athletics at any FHSAA member school as long as the student’s school does not offer that sport. 				
Education & Employment Committee				

THIS BILL ANALYSIS HAS BEEN UPDATED TO INCORPORATE ALL OF THE CHANGES DESCRIBED ABOVE.
