

State of Arkansas
91st General Assembly
Regular Session, 2017

As Engrossed: H2/15/17
A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1481

By: Representatives Lowery, Davis

For An Act To Be Entitled

AN ACT TO ALLOW HOME-SCHOOLED STUDENTS TO PARTICIPATE
IN INTERSCHOLASTIC ACTIVITIES AT PRIVATE SCHOOLS; AND
FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Subtitle

TO ALLOW HOME-SCHOOLED STUDENTS TO
PARTICIPATE IN INTERSCHOLASTIC ACTIVITIES
AT PRIVATE SCHOOLS.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

SECTION 1. Arkansas Code Title 6, Chapter 15, Subchapter 5, is amended
to add an additional section to read as follows:

6-15-510. Participation in interscholastic activities at private
schools.

(a) As used in this section:

(1) "Athletic activity" means a varsity sport or another
competitive sports-related contest, game, event, or exhibition that involves
an individual student or teams of students between schools;

(2) "Home-schooled student" means a student legally enrolled in
an Arkansas home school;

(3) "Interscholastic activity" means an activity between schools
subject to regulations of the Arkansas Activities Association that is:

(A) Outside the regular curriculum of the school,
including without limitation an athletic activity, a fine arts program, or a
special interest club or group; and

(B) Taught by an individual with a minimum of a high



school diploma; and

(4) "Parent" is a legal guardian or legal custodian.

(b) A private school may approve a home-schooled student to participate in an interscholastic activity if:

(1) The home-schooled student or his or her parent notifies the administrative head of the private school in writing:

(A) Of the student's request to participate in the interscholastic activity before the signup, tryout, or participation deadlines established for students enrolled in the private school; and

(B) That the student has demonstrated academic eligibility by obtaining:

(i) A minimum test score of the thirtieth percentile on the Stanford Achievement Test Series, Tenth Edition, or another nationally recognized norm-referenced test in the previous twelve (12) months; or

(ii) A minimum score on a test approved by the State Board of Education; and

(2) The home-schooled student lives within a twenty-five-mile radius of the private school.

(c) If a home-schooled student's written request to participate in the interscholastic activity is approved under this section, the student:

(1) Although not guaranteed participation in an interscholastic activity, shall have an equal opportunity to try out and participate in interscholastic activities without discrimination; and

(2) Shall not participate unless he or she meets the criteria for participation in the interscholastic activity that apply to students enrolled in the private school, including:

(A) Tryout criteria;

(B) Standards of behavior and codes of conduct;

(C) The academic criteria under subdivision (b)(2)(B) of this section;

(D) Practice times;

(E) Required drug testing;

(F) Permission slips, waivers, and physical exams; and

(G) Participation or activity fees.

(d) A home-schooled student who participates in an interscholastic activity may be:

(1) Required to be at the private school not more than one (1) period per school day; and

(2) Transported by the private school to and from interscholastic activities as the private school transports other students who are enrolled in the private school.

(e) A student who withdraws from an Arkansas Activities Association member school to be home schooled shall not participate in an interscholastic activity in the private school for a minimum of three hundred sixty-five (365) days after the student withdraws from the member school.

(f)(1) A home-schooled student approved under subsection (b) of this section to participate in interscholastic activities at a private school may begin participating:

(A) In an interscholastic activity that is not an athletic activity immediately upon being approved to participate; and

(B)(i) Except as provided in subdivision (f)(2) of this section, in an interscholastic activity that is an athletic activity three hundred sixty-five (365) days after being approved to participate.

(ii) A home-schooled student under subdivision (f)(1)(B)(i) of this section may immediately participate in rehearsals, tryouts, practices, auditions, classes, or other endeavors associated with the interscholastic activity that is an athletic activity.

(2) A home-schooled student may begin participating in an interscholastic activity that is an athletic activity immediately upon being approved to participate if the home-schooled student is approved to participate by July 1 of the school year the home-schooled student will be enrolled in:

(A) Grade seven (7); or

(B) A grade that is the lowest grade offered by the private school.

(g) A home-schooled student shall not participate in interscholastic activities at more than one (1) private school at the same time.

(h) A private school may establish additional requirements, policies, or standards for home-schooled students to participate in interscholastic activities at the private school under this section.

(i) A private school shall not be required to allow a home-schooled student to participate in an interscholastic activity under this section.

/s/Lowery

APPROVED: 03/13/2017