

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA  
SESSION 2015

**H.B. 485**  
**Apr 1, 2015**  
**HOUSE PRINCIPAL CLERK**

H

D

HOUSE DRH20156-LE-97B (03/19)

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

Sponsors: Representative Cleveland.

Referred to:

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
2 AN ACT TO PERMIT HOME SCHOOLED STUDENTS IN CERTAIN LOCAL SCHOOL  
3 ADMINISTRATIVE UNITS TO PARTICIPATE IN INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETICS.

4 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

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

6 "§ 115C-12. Powers and duties of the Board generally.

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

11 ...

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

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

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

34 b. If a student participating in an interscholastic athletic activity  
35 exhibits signs or symptoms consistent with concussion, the student  
36 shall be removed from the activity at that time and shall not be



1 allowed to return to play or practice that day. The student shall not  
2 return to play or practice on a subsequent day until the student is  
3 evaluated by and receives written clearance for such participation  
4 from (i) a physician licensed under Article 1 of Chapter 90 of the  
5 General Statutes with training in concussion management, (ii) a  
6 neuropsychologist licensed under Article 18A of Chapter 90 of the  
7 General Statutes with training in concussion management and  
8 working in consultation with a physician licensed under Article 1 of  
9 Chapter 90 of the General Statutes, (iii) an athletic trainer licensed  
10 under Article 34 of Chapter 90 of the General Statutes, (iv) a  
11 physician assistant, consistent with the limitations of G.S. 90-18.1, or  
12 (v) a nurse practitioner, consistent with the limitations of  
13 G.S. 90-18.2.

14 c. Each school shall develop a venue specific emergency action plan to  
15 deal with serious injuries and acute medical conditions in which the  
16 condition of the patient may deteriorate rapidly. The plan shall  
17 include a delineation of roles, methods of communication, available  
18 emergency equipment, and access to and plan for emergency  
19 transport. This plan must be (i) in writing, (ii) reviewed by an athletic  
20 trainer licensed in North Carolina, (iii) approved by the principal of  
21 the school, (iv) distributed to all appropriate personnel, (v) posted  
22 conspicuously at all venues, and (vi) reviewed and rehearsed  
23 annually by all licensed athletic trainers, first responders, coaches,  
24 school nurses, athletic directors, and volunteers for interscholastic  
25 athletic activities.

26 d. Each school shall maintain complete and accurate records of its  
27 compliance with the requirements of this subdivision pertaining to  
28 head injuries.

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

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

33 **"§ 115C-47. Powers and duties generally.**

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

- 36 ...  
37 (4) To Regulate Extracurricular Activities. – Local boards of education shall  
38 make all rules and regulations necessary for the conducting of  
39 extracurricular activities in the schools under their supervision, including a  
40 program of athletics, where desired, without assuming liability therefore;  
41 provided, that all interscholastic athletic activities shall be conducted in  
42 accordance with rules and regulations prescribed by the State Board of  
43 ~~Education.~~ Education, and that students attending home schools shall be  
44 permitted to participate in interscholastic athletic activities in accordance  
45 with the requirements of G.S. 115C-565.1."

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

48 **"§ 115C-565.1. Participation of home schooled students in interscholastic athletics.**

49 (a) Eligibility. – To be eligible to participate in interscholastic public school athletics, a  
50 home schooled student shall meet the residency criteria of G.S. 115C-366 and shall participate

1 only at the school to which the student would be assigned by the local board of education if  
2 enrolled in public school.

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

9 (c) Academic Progress. –

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

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

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

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

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

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

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