

1 State of Arkansas  
2 91st General Assembly  
3 Regular Session, 2017  
4

*As Engrossed: H2/15/17*

# A Bill

HOUSE BILL 1481

5 By: Representatives Lowery, Davis  
6

## For An Act To Be Entitled

8 AN ACT TO ALLOW HOME-SCHOOLED STUDENTS TO PARTICIPATE  
9 IN INTERSCHOLASTIC ACTIVITIES AT PRIVATE SCHOOLS; AND  
10 FOR OTHER PURPOSES.  
11

### Subtitle

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13 TO ALLOW HOME-SCHOOLED STUDENTS TO  
14 PARTICIPATE IN INTERSCHOLASTIC ACTIVITIES  
15 AT PRIVATE SCHOOLS.  
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19 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:  
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21 SECTION 1. Arkansas Code Title 6, Chapter 15, Subchapter 5, is amended  
22 to add an additional section to read as follows:

23 6-15-510. Participation in interscholastic activities at private  
24 schools.

25 (a) As used in this section:

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

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

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

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

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



1 school diploma; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

27 (A) Tryout criteria;

28 (B) Standards of behavior and codes of conduct;

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

31 (D) Practice times;

32 (E) Required drug testing;

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

34 (G) Participation or activity fees.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

27 (A) Grade seven (7); or

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

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

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

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

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*/s/Lowery*

***APPROVED: 03/13/2017***