

By: Hochberg

H.B. No. 332

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1  
2 relating to participation by private school students in University  
3 Interscholastic League sponsored activities.

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

5 SECTION 1. Subchapter D, Chapter 33, Education Code, is  
6 amended by adding Section 33.087 to read as follows:

7 Sec. 33.087. PARTICIPATION BY PRIVATE SCHOOL STUDENTS IN  
8 UNIVERSITY INTERSCHOLASTIC LEAGUE ACTIVITIES. (a) The University  
9 Interscholastic League may not deny a school or its students the  
10 opportunity to participate in an activity sponsored by the league  
11 or the opportunity to become a member of an appropriate league  
12 district because the school is a private school.

13 (b) This section does not exempt a private school or its  
14 students from satisfying each eligibility requirement imposed by  
15 this subchapter or the University Interscholastic League for  
16 participating in an activity or league district sponsored by the  
17 league.

18 (c) A private school seeking to participate in a University  
19 Interscholastic League activity or to become a member of a league  
20 district must apply to the league on a signed form prescribed by the  
21 league. The private school must certify its eligibility under this  
22 subchapter and league rules in the application and must attach  
23 proof of accreditation. The league may not impose eligibility  
24 requirements for private schools that exceed the requirements of

1 this subchapter or league rules for public schools or require proof  
2 of eligibility that exceeds the proof required of public schools.  
3 On approval of an application, the league shall issue a certificate  
4 of approval to the applicant school. The application and  
5 certificate of approval are governmental records for purposes of  
6 Section 37.10, Penal Code.

7 (d) To determine the appropriate University Interscholastic  
8 League district in which an eligible private school with a single  
9 sex student enrollment will participate, the league must multiply  
10 the private school's enrollment by two and place the private school  
11 in an appropriate league district based on that enrollment figure,  
12 provided that the private school is placed in a league district not  
13 lower than the 3A level.

14 (e) For purposes of determining the eligibility of a student  
15 to participate in a University Interscholastic League activity, the  
16 attendance zone for an eligible private school is the geographic  
17 area of the public school district in which the private school is  
18 located.

19 (f) To be eligible under this section, a private school  
20 must:

21 (1) be accredited by an accrediting organization  
22 recognized by the Texas Education Agency;

23 (2) offer a four-year high school curriculum;

24 (3) offer interscholastic competition;

25 (4) require daily student attendance at a specific  
26 location; and

27 (5) have an enrollment of not less than 500 students.

1           SECTION 2.    This Act applies beginning with the 2003-2004  
2 school year.

3           SECTION 3.    This Act takes effect immediately if it receives  
4 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as  
5 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution.  If this  
6 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this  
7 Act takes effect September 1, 2003.