

By: Taylor of Collin

S.B. No. 2046

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to equal opportunity for access by home-schooled students to University Interscholastic League-sponsored activities; authorizing a fee.

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

SECTION 1. Subchapter D, Chapter 33, Education Code, is amended by adding Section 33.0833 to read as follows:

Sec. 33.0833. EQUAL OPPORTUNITY FOR HOME-SCHOOLED STUDENTS TO PARTICIPATE IN UNIVERSITY INTERSCHOLASTIC LEAGUE ACTIVITIES.

(a) In this section, "home-schooled student" has the meaning assigned by Section 29.916.

(b) Except as provided by Subsection (g), a public school that participates in an activity sponsored by the University Interscholastic League shall provide a home-schooled student, who otherwise meets league eligibility standards to represent that school in a league activity, with the opportunity to participate in the activity on behalf of the school in the same manner that the school provides the opportunity to participate to students enrolled in the school.

(c) A home-schooled student who seeks to participate or who participates in a league activity on behalf of a school is subject to the following relevant policies that apply to students enrolled in the school: policies regarding registration, age eligibility, fees, insurance, transportation, physical condition,

1 qualifications, responsibilities, event schedules, standards of  
2 behavior, and performance.

3 (d) The parent or legal guardian of a home-schooled student  
4 is responsible for oversight of academic standards relating to the  
5 student's participation in a league activity. As a condition of  
6 eligibility to participate in a league activity during the first  
7 six weeks of a school year, a home-schooled student must  
8 demonstrate grade-level academic proficiency on any nationally  
9 recognized, norm-referenced assessment instrument, including the  
10 Iowa Test of Basic Skills, Stanford Achievement Test, California  
11 Achievement Test, and Comprehensive Test of Basic Skills. A  
12 home-schooled student demonstrates the required academic  
13 proficiency by achieving a composite, core, or survey score that is  
14 within the average or higher than average range of scores, as  
15 established by the applicable testing service. For purposes of  
16 this subsection, a school district shall accept assessment results  
17 administered or reported by a third party.

18 (e) A home-schooled student's demonstration of academic  
19 proficiency under Subsection (d) is sufficient for purposes of that  
20 subsection for the school year in which the student achieves the  
21 required score and the subsequent school year.

22 (f) After the first six weeks of a school year, the parent or  
23 legal guardian of a home-schooled student participating in a league  
24 activity on behalf of a public school must periodically, in  
25 accordance with the school's grading calendar, provide written  
26 verification to the school indicating that the student is receiving  
27 a passing grade in each course or subject being taught.

1       (g) A home-schooled student is not authorized by this  
2 section to participate in a league activity during the remainder of  
3 any school year during which the student was previously enrolled in  
4 a public school.

5       (h) The University Interscholastic League may not prohibit  
6 a home-schooled student from participating in league activities in  
7 the manner authorized by this section.

8       SECTION 2. This Act applies beginning with the 2015-2016  
9 school year.

10       SECTION 3. Except as otherwise provided by this Act:

11               (1) this Act takes effect immediately if it receives a  
12 vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as  
13 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution; and

14               (2) if this Act does not receive the vote necessary for  
15 immediate effect, this Act takes effect September 1, 2015.