

**SB82 INTRODUCED**



1 SB82  
2 7WS9EVV-1  
3 By Senator Barfoot  
4 RFD: Education Policy  
5 First Read: 08-Feb-24



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SYNOPSIS:

This bill would prohibit public K-12 schools from being members of certain athletic associations.

This bill would also prohibit public K-12 schools from competing in athletic events against certain other schools.

A BILL  
TO BE ENTITLED  
AN ACT

Relating to public K-12 schools; to prohibit membership in certain athletic associations; and to prohibit athletic competition against certain schools.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA:

Section 1. (a) For the purposes of this section, the term "athletic association" means any association of public or nonpublic K-12 schools that acts as an organizing, sanctioning, scheduling, or rulemaking body for interscholastic athletic events in which students in this state participate.

(b) No public K-12 school that benefits from state funding may be a member of an athletic association that prohibits, or discourages through the use of a communication,



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29 policy, procedure, ranking, or other instrument designed to  
30 discourage, its member schools from competing or participating  
31 in a contest against or otherwise engaging in an athletic  
32 event with a non-member school, including, but not limited to,  
33 a scrimmage game, jamboree, or match.

34 (c) No public K-12 school may be a member of an  
35 athletic association that unreasonably withholds its approval  
36 or support of another athletic association's application to  
37 become an affiliate member of the National Federation of State  
38 High School Associations within this state.

39 (d) No public K-12 school that benefits from state  
40 funding may compete or participate in a contest against or  
41 otherwise engage in an athletic event with a school that is  
42 not a member of the athletic association in which the public  
43 K-12 school is a member if the non-member school is a member  
44 of an athletic association that does not do all of the  
45 following:

46 (1) Mandate a preparticipation physical examination for  
47 all students before they may participate in tryouts,  
48 practices, or interscholastic athletic events.

49 (2) Implement a comprehensive concussion management and  
50 return-to-play protocol that includes all of the following:

51 a. The dissemination of an informational sheet on the  
52 risks of concussions to a parent or legal guardian of a  
53 student participating in an athletic event before the program  
54 starts.

55 b. The immediate removal and evaluation of a student  
56 who shows symptoms of a concussion during an athletic event by



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57 a qualified health care provider.

58 c. A prohibition against a student participating in an  
59 athletic event after being diagnosed with a concussion until a  
60 qualified health care provider medically clears the student to  
61 return to participation.

62 (3) Comply with rules established by the National  
63 Federation of State High School Associations.

64 (4) Comply with the competition rules set by the  
65 athletic association that governs the public K-12 school.

66 (5) Restrict participation in competition to  
67 high-school athletes who are under 19 years of age on August 1  
68 of that school year.

69 (6) Use only game officials who are certified through  
70 assessments conducted in accordance with the National  
71 Federation of State High School Associations' rules and  
72 procedures.

73 (7) Comply with all other requirements under state  
74 laws, including, but not limited to, Chapter 30D of Title 16,  
75 Code of Alabama 1975.

76 (e) Nothing in this section shall be construed to do  
77 either of the following:

78 (1) Influence the membership status or governance of  
79 nonpublic schools that are members of an athletic association  
80 that is primarily composed of public K-12 schools.

81 (2) Affect the autonomy granted to nonpublic K-12  
82 schools under the laws of this state.

83 Section 2. This act shall become effective on July 1,  
84 2024.