

ASSEMBLY EDUCATION COMMITTEE

STATEMENT TO

ASSEMBLY, No. 3421

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

DATED: OCTOBER 22, 2012

The Assembly Education Committee reports favorably Assembly Bill No. 3421.

This bill requires school districts to allow students who receive equivalent instruction other than at school, and students who attend charter schools or county vocational schools, to participate in interscholastic sports programs in the student's resident district in accordance with the same criteria established for students enrolled in the district.

Under the bill, a student who receives equivalent instruction elsewhere than at school who wishes to try out for, and participate in, school-sponsored interscholastic athletics in his resident district must:

- 1) provide proof that he resides in the district;
- 2) meet the sports participation requirements established by the school district for students enrolled in the district such as physical examinations, insurance, age, academic, and other requirements. The student must comply with the same standards of behavior, responsibilities, and performance as other members of the team;
- 3) meet the eligibility rules of the New Jersey State Interscholastic Athletic Association (NJSIAA);
- 4) demonstrate to the board of education that he is receiving an academically equivalent education compared to students enrolled in the school district and that he is academically qualified to participate; and
- 5) demonstrate to the board of education that he did not transfer to an equivalent instructional program for athletic advantage.

Under current NJSIAA rules, the participation of such a student is at the discretion of the board of education of the resident school district.

In the case of a student enrolled in a charter school or county vocational school, the student may try out for, and participate in, interscholastic athletics in his resident district if the student's charter school or county vocational school does not sponsor an interscholastic sports team in the sport in which the student wishes to participate. In order to participate, the student must comply with the requirements listed above, other than the requirement to demonstrate academically equivalent instruction. Under current NSIAA rules, a student enrolled in a charter school or full-time in a county vocational school may only

participate in interscholastic athletics in the resident district if the principal of the charter school or county vocational school, as applicable, and the principal of the resident district school agree to such participation.