

Office of the General Counsel
Walter J. Harvey, General Counsel

SUBJECT: **INITIAL READING: PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO SCHOOL BOARD POLICY 2431, *INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETICS***

COMMITTEE: **PERSONNEL, STUDENT, SCHOOL & COMMUNITY SUPPORT**

LINK TO STRATEGIC PLAN: **SAFE, HEALTHY & SUPPORTIVE LEARNING ENVIRONMENTS**

Consistent with the Board’s responsibility to review and amend policies to conform to legislative changes, and pursuant to Board action, authorization is requested to initiate rulemaking to amend School Board Policy 2431, *Interscholastic Athletics*.

Policy 2431 is proposed for amendment in response to two recent School Board Member items. At its regular meeting of February 2025, the Board approved item H-13, “Review and Enhancement of Middle School Athletic Programs,” proffered by Board Member Dr. Steve Gallon III, which directed the Superintendent to, among other things, conduct a comprehensive review of the middle school athletics program in the District; review applicable policies and procedures, including Policy 2431; and, if appropriate, initiate rulemaking to amend applicable policies and procedures. Additionally, at its regular meeting of April 2025, the Board approved item H-9, “Mandatory Medical Evaluation and Electrocardiogram (ECG/EKG) Screenings for Student-Athletes,” proffered by Board Member Roberto Alonso, which directed the Superintendent to explore the feasibility of developing and implementing policies and procedures requiring all high school student-athletes to undergo a one-time ECG/EKG screening before participating in interscholastic athletic activities, and, if appropriate, initiate rulemaking by the June 2025 Board meeting.

In response to these items, Policy 2431 is proposed for amendment to better address middle school interscholastic activities and to require all high school students, unless exempt, to undergo an ECG/EKG screening as a condition of participating in the District’s interscholastic athletic activities. The policy would specifically provide: (a) that the District must take specific steps toward funding, operating, and maintaining interscholastic athletic activities for students in grades 6–8; and (b) that, beginning October 2025, all high school students—unless exempt for religious or verified medical reasons—must undergo at least one ECG/EKG screening to be eligible to participate in interscholastic athletic activities. The policy is also proposed for amendment to conform to § 1006.15, Florida Statutes, which governs not only interscholastic athletics, but all interscholastic activities. Clarifying edits are proposed throughout the policy, and the policy is proposed to be renamed, “Interscholastic Activities and Athletics.”

Policy 2431 is additionally proposed for amendment based on two bills recently signed into law. Pursuant to 2025 Florida Senate Bill 248 and House Bill 443, the policy is proposed for amendment to expand home-education, virtual school, charter school, and private school students’ eligibility to participate in the District’s interscholastic athletic activities.

These policy amendments were drafted in collaboration with and reviewed by the Superintendent, Cabinet, and District staff. The Notice of Intended Action and policies with strikethroughs and underlines are attached.

RECOMMENDED:

That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, authorize the Superintendent to initiate rulemaking proceedings in accordance with the Administrative Procedure Act to amend School Board Policy 2431, *Interscholastic Athletics*.

NOTICE OF INTENDED ACTION

THE SCHOOL BOARD OF MIAMI-DADE COUNTY, FLORIDA, announced on June 18, 2025, its intention to amend School Board Policy 2431, *Interscholastic Athletics*, at its meeting of July 23, 2025.

PURPOSE AND EFFECT: School Board Policy 2431, *Interscholastic Athletics*, is proposed for amendment in response to Board action and legislative changes, and to otherwise align the policy with State law.

SUMMARY: School Board Policy 2431, *Interscholastic Athletics*, is proposed for amendment to better address middle school interscholastic activities and to require all high school students, unless exempt, to undergo an electrocardiogram (ECG/EKG) screening as a condition of participating in athletic activities. The amended policy would also incorporate changes made by 2025 Florida Senate Bill 248 and House Bill 443, which expands the eligibility of home-education, virtual school, charter school, and private school students to participate in the District's interscholastic athletic activities. The policy is additionally proposed for amendment to conform to F.S. 1006.15, which governs not only interscholastic athletics, but all interscholastic activities. Clarifying edits are proposed throughout the policy, and the policy is proposed to be renamed, "Interscholastic Activities and Athletics."

SPECIFIC LEGAL AUTHORITY UNDER WHICH RULEMAKING IS AUTHORIZED: Fla. Stat. ss. 1001.41; 1001.42(8); 1006.195.

LAWS IMPLEMENTED INTERPRETED OR MADE SPECIFIC: Fla. Stat. ss. 1002.20, 1002.31(6), 1006.15, 1006.165, 1006.195, 1006.20.

IF REQUESTED, A HEARING WILL BE HELD DURING SCHOOL BOARD MEETING OF July 23, 2025, which begins at 1:00 p.m., in the School Board Auditorium, 1450 N.E. Second Avenue, Miami, Florida 33132. Persons requesting such a hearing or who wish to provide information regarding the statement of estimated regulatory costs, or to provide a proposal for a lower cost regulatory alternative as provided in Section 120.54(1), F.S., must do so in writing by July 16, 2025, to the Superintendent, Room 912, at the same address.

ANY PERSON WHO DECIDES TO APPEAL THE DECISION made by the School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, with respect to this action will need to ensure the preparation of a verbatim record of the proceedings, including the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be based. (Section 286.0105, Florida Statutes)

COPIES OF THE PROPOSED AMENDED POLICY are available at cost to the public for inspection and copying in the Citizen Information Center, Room 158, 1450 N.E. Second Avenue, Miami, Florida 33132.



Book Policy Manual
Section June 18, 2025 - Initial Reading
Title INTERSCHOLASTIC ATHLETICS
Code 2431
Status Initial Reading

2431 - **INTERSCHOLASTIC ACTIVITIES AND ATHLETICS**

I. **Interscholastic Activities and Athletics Program**

A. The District's program of interscholastic ~~athletics activities~~ shall include all extracurricular activities relating to competitive sport contests, games, or events involving individual students or teams of students. References in this policy to "interscholastic activities" are intended to include all such activities, while references to "interscholastic athletic activities" (i.e., sports) are intended to exclude other interscholastic activities.

B. ~~High-school students from high schools~~ in this District may compete in-county or out-of-county with high school students of those from a high school in another district or school. ~~Middle school/K~~ Students in grades 6-8 center athletic teams may compete with other students of this District in grades 6-8, but may not play out-of-county or against out-of-county teams within the county.

A.C. All students shall be permitted to select their own ~~school team sports~~ interscholastic activities without duress or interference by any employee.

B.D. All high schools may become members of and be governed by the Florida High School Athletic Association (FHSAA) rules and regulations.

E. All high school students in FHSAA-member schools shall comply with the eligibility requirements established by the FHSAA and/or other applicable member associations, ~~including.~~ Such eligibility requirements include, but are not limited to, those governing relating to amateurism, use of marks, and Name, Image, and Likeness (NIL) agreements. The School Board may

adopt more stringent rules of eligibility to be met by all students participating in ~~the interscholastic program activities.~~

~~C.F.~~ All students who participate or seek to participate in high school interscholastic athletic activities including but not limited to requirements that each student must be in good physical condition, be free of injury or life-threatening medical conditions, and have be fully recovered from illness before participating in any interscholastic athletic event. To be eligible to participate in these activities, high school students must satisfactorily pass a medical evaluation each year. Separately, beginning October 2025, high school students must satisfactorily pass at least one electrocardiogram (ECG/EKG) screening that meets the requirements of F.S. 1006.165, which the District will make available through public or private partnerships in accordance with State law. Exceptions to these eligibility requirements will be made only when a student's parent objects in writing based on religious tenets or practices or, in the case of ECG/EKG screenings, a student's parent provides a certificate of medical exception in accordance with State law. Individual verificationeligibility verifications under this section will be must be done at the school site, and additional documentation may be requested.

~~D.G.~~ There shall be no organized program of interschool competition of a varsity pattern for ~~elementary school children~~ students in grades K-5 in any activity. Boxing, tackle football, and other body contact sports shall not be included in any program for ~~students children~~ in grades K-5 ~~elementary schools.~~

H. No student shall be excused from a class or supervised study for an extended period of consecutive days to participate in interscholastic ~~athletics~~ activities unless approved by the principal.

~~E.I.~~ In accordance with State Board rules, signed parent permission must be obtained before any student participates in interscholastic activities.

~~F.J.~~ The Superintendent shall develop appropriate administrative procedures for the operation of ~~the athletic program~~ interscholastic athletic activities which provide that:

1. the District shall assume no liability for ~~any students~~ with a health conditions who has ~~ve~~ been authorized to play by their parents and ~~or~~ their physicians to participate in interscholastic athletic activities;
2. any student who incurs an injury requiring a physician's care is to have the written approval of a physician ~~prior to the student's return to participation~~ before the student resumes participation in an interscholastic athletic activity;

3. to minimize health and safety risks to student-athletes and maintain ethical standards, ~~school personnel, coaches, and athletic trainers should never dispense, supply, recommend, or permit the use of any drug, medication, or food supplement solely for performance-enhancing purposes~~ no employee, except as allowed or required by law or Board policy, may distribute, administer, recommend, or permit the use of any medication (including but not limited to supplements and vitamins) or administer treatment to any student; and
4. ~~the Superintendent is to ensure that~~ sportsmanship, ethics, and integrity characterize the manner in which interscholastic athletic activities are ~~the athletic program is~~ conducted and the actions of students who participate.

G.K. To support the FHSAA's program to strengthen sportsmanship, ethics, and integrity, ~~the Board may it is the Board's policy that:~~

1. ~~adopt policies (upon recommendation of the administration) that~~ interscholastic athletic activities should reflect the District's educational objectives and promote the ideals of good sportsmanship, ethics, and integrity;
2. ~~reinforce the concept that~~ participation in athletic activities is a privilege, not a right;
3. Board members and District staff are encouraged to attend and enjoy school athletic activities, serving as ~~a~~ positive role models and expecting the same from parents, fans, participants, coaches, and other school personnel;
4. ~~support and recognize~~ participants, coaches, school administrators, and fans who display good sportsmanship should be supported and recognized;
5. ~~recognize the value of school~~ interscholastic athletic activities ~~as are~~ a vital part of education; and
6. ~~inform~~ students and coaches about will be informed of FHSAA regulations and penalties for violations.

L. To support students in grades 6–8 who wish to participate in interscholastic athletic activities, the District will:

1. review and analyze the allocation of funding for interscholastic athletic activities for students in grades 6–8 to assess current funding levels and school program challenges and deficiencies that may be linked to inadequate funding;

2. explore and secure partnerships, including but not limited to county, municipal, and other community partnerships, and adopt strategies to produce additional revenue to support enhancements to interscholastic athletic activities for students in grades 6-8; and

3. develop a written plan and program to ensure continued and consistent review of interscholastic athletic activities for students in grades 6-8 by soliciting stakeholder input at least annually and before the Fall of each school year.

H.M. Regulations to be observed by school personnel for students in grades 6-8 are found in the Interscholastic Athletic Manual and in the Middle Schools and K-8 Centers Program Administrative Athletic Procedures ~~Manual and which~~ are on file in the Office of Board Recording Secretary, the Citizen Information Center, and the Office of the Board Clerk.

I.N. The Division of Athletics and Activities shall:

1. provide ~~the~~ schools with consistent, unified leadership in their athletic programs;~~;~~
2. provide athletic opportunities to all ~~high school and middle school~~ students in grades 6-12;
3. develop and recommend policies for Board consideration that will continue the development of athletics within the overall educational program;~~;~~
4. carry out and administer ~~the all applicable~~ Board's policies ~~through the Office of the Superintendent;~~
5. interpret Board policy to the extent necessary to provide guidance for schools in areas not specifically covered by policy; ~~and;~~
6. provide ~~the~~ management and leadership on a countywide basis to enable all students to develop their individual athletic capabilities and receive maximum benefit from balanced, well-managed, and well-operated athletic programs.

II. **Greater Miami Athletic Conference (GMAC)**

The GMAC is established to protect the interests of its member high schools; promote pure, amateur sports; and foster such other activities as the GMAC may decide to sponsor. Any District school that is a member of the FHSAA may become a member of the GMAC by a two-thirds vote of the GMAC member schools.

II.

~~A. Other than Christopher Columbus High School, non-public schools shall not be permitted to become members of the GMAC.~~

~~B.A.~~ The Executive Committee of the GMAC shall consist of: president, first vice president, second vice president, immediate past president, two (2) delegated principals (north and south), two (2) delegated athletic directors (north and south), an FHSAA board representative, a representative of the secondary principals group, and four (4) members-at-large. The Administrative Director of the Division of Athletics and Activities and the GMAC Executive Secretary serve as non-voting, ex-officio members. Two (2) members from the same school may not serve on the executive committee at the same time.

~~C.B.~~ The executive secretary shall be responsible for supervision of the high school athletic program as prescribed in the bylaws, standing rules, and policies of the GMAC, and shall be the executive officer of this conference.

~~D.C.~~ The Administrative Director of the Division of Athletics and Activities shall:

1. develop and enforce special directives as shall be necessary to provide uniform policy within the District and to ensure an effective athletic program in the various senior high schools;~~;~~
2. standardize the operations of the athletic departments in all high schools;~~;~~
3. manage all athletic events in the District, within the policies of the GMAC, FHSAA, and Board policies, as applicable;~~;~~
4. help all schools to develop their athletic capabilities; ~~and;~~
5. help develop realistic athletic budgets.

~~D. Non-public schools (except those grandfathered in pursuant to the GMAC bylaws) are ineligible to become members of the GMAC.~~
~~5.~~

III. Interscholastic ~~Athletic Activity~~ Eligibility

A. ~~The Except as otherwise expressly provided in this policy, the~~ eligibility requirements of F.S. 1006.15 and the following conditions apply to athletic eligibility for all ~~high school~~ students ~~commencing with the successful completion of the eighth grade in grades 6-12,~~ as defined by Policy 5410, *Student Progression Plan*. These requirements are in addition to all academic and conduct eligibility requirements contained in ~~Board~~ Policy 5845, *Student Activities*, Policy 5500, *Student Conduct and Discipline*, and ~~those of the FHSAA and the GMAC~~ bBylaws and rules.

- B. In accordance with State law, "eligible to participate" includes, but is not limited to, participating in tryouts, off-season conditioning, summer workouts, preseason conditioning, in-season practice, or contests.
- C. ~~An individual~~ District ~~public school~~ student who is otherwise eligible to participate in an interscholastic extra-curricular activities and whose school does not offer the activity may either participate in ~~any such~~the activity at any public school in the District ~~in which the student resides~~ or develop an agreement to participate in ~~such the~~ activity at a private school, ~~unless the activity is provided by the student's traditional public school~~. A student exercising either of these options must:
1. meet the same standards of acceptance, behavior, and performance that are required of other students in ~~extra-curricular interscholastic~~ activities at the school at which the student wishes to participate; and
 2. before participation, register with the school the student's intent to participate in interscholastic ~~extra-curricular~~ activities as a representative of the school, ~~provided that the student must be able to and, if applicable,~~ participate in curricular activities at the school if that is a requirement for ~~an extra-curricular~~the interscholastic activity.
- D. A student enrolled in home education, ~~or~~ a personalized education program ~~-(PEP),~~ or full-time at a virtual school, or who is enrolled at a charter school that does not offer the interscholastic activity in which the student wishes to participate, is eligible to participate in ~~ana District~~ interscholastic activity at ~~the public school to which the student would be assigned pursuant to Policy 5120 or for which the student could choose to attend pursuant to Policy 5131~~any public school in the District, provided that the student meets the same residency requirements as other students in the school offering the interscholastic activity and. Students exercising this option must also fulfill ~~the same all applicable~~ academic and nonacademic requirements ~~as any other participant~~ under State law and Board policy. (See F.S. 1006.15(3)). ~~Home education students must also fulfill the Florida home education requirements.~~
- E. Students enrolled in non-FHSAA member private schools, or who are enrolled in FHSAA-member private schools that do not offer the interscholastic athletic activities in which the students wish to participate, ~~consisting of 200 students or fewer~~ are eligible to participate in ~~a District interscholastic~~ athletic activities ~~sy~~ at ~~an FHSAA--member public middle school public high school or public 6-12~~District schools, as appropriate for the private school student's' grade levels, and must fulfill the same academic and nonacademic requirements as any other participant under Sstate law and Board policy. Parents of ~~a private~~ school students participating in ~~an~~ interscholastic athletic activities ~~sy~~ at ~~an~~ FHSAA member

~~public~~District schools are responsible for transporting their children to and from the ~~FHSAA member public~~-District school. The ~~FHSAA member public~~District school at which the student participates in the interscholastic athletic activity and the Board are exempt from civil liability arising from any injury that occurs to the student during such transportation.

- F. In accordance with State law, students granted ~~transfers-School Choice placements~~ in accordance with ~~applicable-eligibility and transfer-Board~~ policies shall be immediately eligible to participate in ~~high-school-athletic programs~~interscholastic activities at the new school.

IV. **Athletic Eligibility Transfer Review Committee (AETRC)**

- A. In cases where a student's athletic eligibility is disputed, the Superintendent's Athletic Eligibility Transfer Review Committee (AETRC) will review the circumstances prior to the student ~~engaging in athletic participation~~participating in the athletic activity.

- B. The AETRC consists of one (1) District-level administrator, three (3) ~~senior high~~-school principals, three (3) ~~senior high~~-school athletic directors, one (1) representative from the District Athletic Advisory Committee, and an administrator from the Division of Athletics and Activities, who serves as an ex officio member.

- B.C. The AETRC shall review all requests for ~~mid-season~~ athletic transfers based on good cause as defined in this policy. The Committee will meet at least once a month. All AETRC decisions regarding athletic eligibility that are reviewed by the AETRC will be forwarded to the Region Superintendent and principal of the affected schools for information purposes. AETRC decisions are final.

V. **~~Mid-School-Year~~ Athletic Transfers**

- A. A student may not participate in an interscholastic athletic activity if the student participated in that same activity at another school during that school year, unless the student meets one (1) of the following criteria:
 1. dependent children of active military duty personnel whose move resulted from military orders;
 2. children who have been relocated due to a foster care placement in a different school zone;
 3. children who move due to a court ordered change in custody due to separation or divorce, or serious illness or death of a custodial parent; or

4. students who are otherwise authorized only under the following good--cause circumstances:
 - a. students who have fully and completely moved to a new residence in Miami-Dade County;
 - b. students who are ~~administratively reassigned by the Board during the school year to a~~ placed in a different school pursuant to Policy 5120 or Policy 5131 for reasons other than athletics or disciplinary;
 - c. students who ~~transfer~~ are placed within the first twenty (20) days of the school year to magnet schools or programs that are subject to specific admissions requirements and/or random lotteries that are governed by Policy 2370, *Magnet Programs/Schools*; ~~or~~
 - d. students whose ~~se receive a transfer pursuant to Section II.A. of School Choice placements are approved pursuant to~~ Policy 5131 and present extenuating circumstances to the ~~Athletic Eligibility Transfer Review Committee (AETRC)~~, notwithstanding the rule on ~~involuntary administrative transfers-placements~~ as referenced in ~~4.b2.~~ above;
 - e. ~~All~~ good cause ~~mid-season-athletic~~ transfer eligibility requests must be reviewed and approved by the ~~Superintendent's Athletic Eligibility Transfer Review Committee (AETRC)~~ prior to ~~the student engaging-participating in athletic-participation~~ the interscholastic athletic activity.

- B. A student who participates in a District interscholastic or intrascholastic activity and transfers to another school during the school year may continue to participate in the same interscholastic or intrascholastic activity at the prior school for the remainder of the school year if:
 1. during the period of participation in the activity at the prior school, the student continues to fulfill the eligibility requirements of F.S. 1006.15(3)(a);
 2. the student continues to meet the same standards of acceptance, behavior, and performance which are required of other students participating in the activity, except for enrollment requirements at the school at which the student participates; and
 3. the parents of the student participating in the activity provide for the transportation of the student to and from the prior school at which the student participates in the activity. ~~The (in which case, the~~ new school the student attends, the prior school at which the student participates in the activity, and the Board are exempt from civil

liability arising from any injury that occurs to the student during such transportation).

VI. Penalties for Violations

- A. A student ~~receiving any type of transfer into a senior high school~~participating in any District interscholastic activity must abide by all State laws, the FHSAA and GMAC Bylaws, and ~~applicable~~ Board policies pertaining to ~~athletic~~ eligibility, as may be applicable. The FHSAA and other such organizations may assess penalties for noncompliance.
- B. Any student or parent who is found to have falsified enrollment, ~~transfers~~school placement, or eligibility information shall be declared ~~athletically~~ ineligible to participate in interscholastic athletic activities for at least one (1) full calendar year from the date of discovery of the violation or as otherwise determined by the AETRC.
- C. Violations of ~~the transfer policy regarding athletic eligibility~~this Policy or State law may result in forfeiture of athletic contest(s), fines, and/or probation. Penalties to be assessed will be determined by the Director of the Division of Athletics and Activities and Executive Secretary, GMAC.
- D. The principal shall be responsible for control of the ~~athletic interscholastic activity~~ programs, coaches, booster groups, and student athletes.
- E. A student's eligibility to participate in any interscholastic ~~athletics and/or extra-curricular~~ activity may not be affected by any alleged recruiting violation until final disposition of the allegation pursuant to F.S. 1006.20.
- F. A District student currently suspended from interscholastic activities, or suspended or expelled from school, pursuant to Policy 5500, Student Conduct and Discipline, is ineligible to participate in interscholastic activities. Additionally, in accordance with State law, students who are permitted to participate in interscholastic ~~and/or extra-curricular~~ activities at a public school in which they are not enrolled are subject to the Board's Code of Student Conduct for the limited purpose of establishing and maintaining the student's eligibility to participate in the school-related function. These students must comply with the specific requirements contained in F.S. 1006.15 that govern their circumstances.

To see the Interscholastic Athletics Guidelines Handbook, please click [here](#).

To see the Middle Schools and K-8 Centers Program Administrative Athletic Procedures, please click [here](#).

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Legal References:

F.S. 1002.20
F.S. 1006.07
F.S. 1006.08
F.S. 1006.09
F.S. 1006.15
F.S. 1006.165
F.S. 1006.18
F.S. 1006.195
F.S. 1006.20

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