

HB 334 -- Prevention and Treatment of Student Athlete Head Injuries

Sponsor: Barnes

This bill requires the Department of Education to develop and implement an interscholastic athletic head injury safety training program by the 2012-2013 school year. A school physician, a coach, and certain athletic trainers in public and private school interscholastic sports must complete the program which is required to include, but not limited to, the recognition of head and neck injuries, concussions, and second-impact syndrome symptom injuries and the appropriate amount of time a student athlete must sit out of sports competition or practice following a concussion or head injury. The department must periodically update the program with the most current information and develop a sports head injury fact sheet for schools that participate in an interscholastic sports program to distribute annually to student athletes and their parents or guardians who must sign an acknowledgment that they received the fact sheet. Each school district must develop a written sports head injury prevention and treatment policy and implement it by the 2012-2013 school year. Each district must review policies established by the Missouri State High School Athletics Association (MSHSAA), the Missouri Brain Injury Council, and other related organizations when developing a district policy, as well as a model policy the Commissioner of the Department of Education must develop by March 31, 2012.

A student athlete who participates in an interscholastic sports program and who is injured or suspected of sustaining a concussion or head injury in a practice or a competition must be removed immediately and cannot participate in any sports activity until being evaluated by a physician or other licensed health care provider trained in the evaluation and management of concussions to return to competition or practice.