

HB 476 -- Students First Interscholastic Athletics Act

Sponsor: Funderburk

This bill establishes the Students First Interscholastic Athletics Act which requires every high school age student to have the opportunity to participate in interscholastic athletics. If a student's school of attendance does not offer interscholastic athletics, the student must have the opportunity through his or her public school district of residence. Each school that offers interscholastic athletics must make public by July 1 each year the individual sports that it will provide and the approximate number of athletes that may participate on each sports team.

To be eligible to participate, a student must:

- (1) Be between 14 and 19 years of age, a Missouri resident, and a United States citizen or have lawful presence in the United States;
- (2) Provide affirmative proof of identity;
- (3) Be completing an education program;
- (4) Complete an application for participation as required by the school;
- (5) Be declared able to participate in athletic activities by a physician or licensed health care provider; and
- (6) Maintain academic eligibility or make satisfactory progress according to the school district's policy.

A school must have the discretion to select athletes; however, it must not discriminate based on a student's choice of education program.