

1 AN ACT concerning education.

2 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois,**
3 **represented in the General Assembly:**

4 Section 1. This Act may be referred to as the Protecting
5 Our Student Athletes Act.

6 Section 3. The Park District Code is amended by adding
7 Section 8-24 as follows:

8 (70 ILCS 1205/8-24 new)

9 Sec. 8-24. Concussion and head injury educational
10 materials. In addition to the other powers and authority now
11 possessed by it, any park district is authorized and encouraged
12 to make available to residents and users of park district
13 facilities, including youth athletic programs, electronically
14 or in written form, educational materials that describe the
15 nature and risk of concussion and head injuries, including the
16 advisability of removal of youth athletes that exhibit signs,
17 symptoms, or behaviors consistent with a concussion, such as a
18 loss of consciousness, headache, dizziness, confusion, or
19 balance problems, from a practice or game. These educational
20 materials may include materials produced or distributed by the
21 Illinois High School Association, those produced by the U.S.
22 Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, or other comparable

1 materials. The intent of these materials is to assist in
2 educating coaches, youth athletes, and parents and guardians of
3 youth athletes about the nature and risks of head injuries.

4 Section 5. The School Code is amended by adding Sections
5 10-20.53 and 34-18.45 as follows:

6 (105 ILCS 5/10-20.53 new)

7 Sec. 10-20.53. Student athletes; concussions and head
8 injuries.

9 (a) The General Assembly recognizes all of the following:

10 (1) Concussions are one of the most commonly reported
11 injuries in children and adolescents who participate in
12 sports and recreational activities. The Centers for
13 Disease Control and Prevention estimates that as many as
14 3,900,000 sports-related and recreation-related
15 concussions occur in the United States each year. A
16 concussion is caused by a blow or motion to the head or
17 body that causes the brain to move rapidly inside the
18 skull. The risk of catastrophic injuries or death are
19 significant when a concussion or head injury is not
20 properly evaluated and managed.

21 (2) Concussions are a type of brain injury that can
22 range from mild to severe and can disrupt the way the brain
23 normally works. Concussions can occur in any organized or
24 unorganized sport or recreational activity and can result

1 from a fall or from players colliding with each other, the
2 ground, or with obstacles. Concussions occur with or
3 without loss of consciousness, but the vast majority of
4 concussions occur without loss of consciousness.

5 (3) Continuing to play with a concussion or symptoms of
6 a head injury leaves a young athlete especially vulnerable
7 to greater injury and even death. The General Assembly
8 recognizes that, despite having generally recognized
9 return-to-play standards for concussions and head
10 injuries, some affected youth athletes are prematurely
11 returned to play, resulting in actual or potential physical
12 injury or death to youth athletes in this State.

13 (b) Each school board shall adopt a policy regarding
14 student athlete concussions and head injuries that is in
15 compliance with the protocols, policies, and by-laws of the
16 Illinois High School Association. Information on the school
17 board's concussion and head injury policy must be a part of any
18 agreement, contract, code, or other written instrument that a
19 school district requires a student athlete and his or her
20 parents or guardian to sign before participating in practice or
21 interscholastic competition.

22 (c) The Illinois High School Association shall make
23 available to all school districts, including elementary school
24 districts, education materials, such as visual presentations
25 and other written materials, that describe the nature and risk
26 of concussions and head injuries. Each school district shall

1 use education materials provided by the Illinois High School
2 Association to educate coaches, student athletes, and parents
3 and guardians of student athletes about the nature and risk of
4 concussions and head injuries, including continuing play after
5 a concussion or head injury.

6 (105 ILCS 5/34-18.45 new)

7 Sec. 34-18.45. Student athletes; concussions and head
8 injuries.

9 (a) The General Assembly recognizes all of the following:

10 (1) Concussions are one of the most commonly reported
11 injuries in children and adolescents who participate in
12 sports and recreational activities. The Centers for
13 Disease Control and Prevention estimates that as many as
14 3,900,000 sports-related and recreation-related
15 concussions occur in the United States each year. A
16 concussion is caused by a blow or motion to the head or
17 body that causes the brain to move rapidly inside the
18 skull. The risk of catastrophic injuries or death are
19 significant when a concussion or head injury is not
20 properly evaluated and managed.

21 (2) Concussions are a type of brain injury that can
22 range from mild to severe and can disrupt the way the brain
23 normally works. Concussions can occur in any organized or
24 unorganized sport or recreational activity and can result
25 from a fall or from players colliding with each other, the

1 ground, or with obstacles. Concussions occur with or
2 without loss of consciousness, but the vast majority of
3 concussions occur without loss of consciousness.

4 (3) Continuing to play with a concussion or symptoms of
5 a head injury leaves a young athlete especially vulnerable
6 to greater injury and even death. The General Assembly
7 recognizes that, despite having generally recognized
8 return-to-play standards for concussions and head
9 injuries, some affected youth athletes are prematurely
10 returned to play, resulting in actual or potential physical
11 injury or death to youth athletes in this State.

12 (b) The board shall adopt a policy regarding student
13 athlete concussions and head injuries that is in compliance
14 with the protocols, policies, and by-laws of the Illinois High
15 School Association. Information on the board's concussion and
16 head injury policy must be a part of any agreement, contract,
17 code, or other written instrument that the school district
18 requires a student athlete and his or her parents or guardian
19 to sign before participating in practice or interscholastic
20 competition.

21 (c) The Illinois High School Association shall make
22 available to the school district education materials, such as
23 visual presentations and other written materials, that
24 describe the nature and risk of concussions and head injuries.
25 The school district shall use education materials provided by
26 the Illinois High School Association to educate coaches,

1 student athletes, and parents and guardians of student athletes
2 about the nature and risk of concussions and head injuries,
3 including continuing play after a concussion or head injury.

4 Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect July 1,
5 2011.