

1 AN ACT concerning education, which may be referred to as
2 the Protecting Our Student Athletes Act.

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

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

7 (70 ILCS 1205/8-24 new)

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

1 youth athletes about the nature and risks of head injuries.

2 Section 5. The School Code is amended by adding Sections
3 10-20.53 and 34-18.45 as follows:

4 (105 ILCS 5/10-20.53 new)

5 Sec. 10-20.53. Student athletes; concussions and head
6 injuries.

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

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

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

1 without loss of consciousness, but the vast majority of
2 concussions occur without loss of consciousness.

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

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

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

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

4 (105 ILCS 5/34-18.45 new)

5 Sec. 34-18.45. Student athletes; concussions and head
6 injuries.

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

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

19 (2) Concussions are a type of brain injury that can
20 range from mild to severe and can disrupt the way the brain
21 normally works. Concussions can occur in any organized or
22 unorganized sport or recreational activity and can result
23 from a fall or from players colliding with each other, the
24 ground, or with obstacles. Concussions occur with or
25 without loss of consciousness, but the vast majority of

1 concussions occur without loss of consciousness.

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

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

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

1 including continuing play after a concussion or head injury.

2 Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect July 1,
3 2011.