

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 5. The School Code is amended by renumbering and
5 changing Sections 10-20.53 and 34-18.45 as follows:

6 (105 ILCS 5/10-20.54)

7 Sec. 10-20.54 ~~10-20.53~~. Student athletes; concussions and
8 head 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

1 unorganized sport or recreational activity and can result
2 from a fall or from players colliding with each other, the
3 ground, or with obstacles. Concussions occur with or
4 without loss of consciousness, but the vast majority of
5 concussions occur without loss of consciousness.

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

14 (b) Each school board shall adopt a policy regarding
15 student athlete concussions and head injuries that is in
16 compliance with the protocols, policies, and by-laws of the
17 Illinois High School Association, which state that any athlete
18 who exhibits signs, symptoms, or behaviors consistent with a
19 concussion shall be immediately removed from the contest and
20 shall not return to play until cleared by a physician licensed
21 to practice medicine in all its branches in this State or a
22 certified athletic trainer working in conjunction with a
23 physician licensed to practice medicine in all its branches in
24 this State.

25 Information on the school board's concussion and head
26 injury policy must be a part of any agreement, contract, code,

1 or other written instrument that a school district requires a
2 student athlete and his or her parents or guardian to sign
3 before participating in practice or interscholastic
4 competition.

5 (c) The Illinois High School Association shall make
6 available to all school districts, including elementary school
7 districts, education materials, such as visual presentations
8 and other written materials, that describe the nature and risk
9 of concussions and head injuries. Each school district shall
10 use education materials provided by the Illinois High School
11 Association to educate coaches, student athletes, and parents
12 and guardians of student athletes about the nature and risk of
13 concussions and head injuries, including continuing play after
14 a concussion or head injury.

15 (Source: P.A. 97-204, eff. 7-28-11; revised 10-7-11.)

16 (105 ILCS 5/34-18.46)

17 Sec. 34-18.46 ~~34-18.45~~. Student athletes; concussions and
18 head injuries.

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

20 (1) Concussions are one of the most commonly reported
21 injuries in children and adolescents who participate in
22 sports and recreational activities. The Centers for
23 Disease Control and Prevention estimates that as many as
24 3,900,000 sports-related and recreation-related
25 concussions occur in the United States each year. A

1 concussion is caused by a blow or motion to the head or
2 body that causes the brain to move rapidly inside the
3 skull. The risk of catastrophic injuries or death are
4 significant when a concussion or head injury is not
5 properly evaluated and managed.

6 (2) Concussions are a type of brain injury that can
7 range from mild to severe and can disrupt the way the brain
8 normally works. Concussions can occur in any organized or
9 unorganized sport or recreational activity and can result
10 from a fall or from players colliding with each other, the
11 ground, or with obstacles. Concussions occur with or
12 without loss of consciousness, but the vast majority of
13 concussions occur without loss of consciousness.

14 (3) Continuing to play with a concussion or symptoms of
15 a head injury leaves a young athlete especially vulnerable
16 to greater injury and even death. The General Assembly
17 recognizes that, despite having generally recognized
18 return-to-play standards for concussions and head
19 injuries, some affected youth athletes are prematurely
20 returned to play, resulting in actual or potential physical
21 injury or death to youth athletes in this State.

22 (b) The board shall adopt a policy regarding student
23 athlete concussions and head injuries that is in compliance
24 with the protocols, policies, and by-laws of the Illinois High
25 School Association, which state that any athlete who exhibits
26 signs, symptoms, or behaviors consistent with a concussion

1 shall be immediately removed from the contest and shall not
2 return to play until cleared by a physician licensed to
3 practice medicine in all its branches in this State or a
4 certified athletic trainer working in conjunction with a
5 physician licensed to practice medicine in all its branches in
6 this State.

7 Information on the board's concussion and head injury
8 policy must be a part of any agreement, contract, code, or
9 other written instrument that the school district requires a
10 student athlete and his or her parents or guardian to sign
11 before participating in practice or interscholastic
12 competition.

13 (c) The Illinois High School Association shall make
14 available to the school district education materials, such as
15 visual presentations and other written materials, that
16 describe the nature and risk of concussions and head injuries.
17 The school district shall use education materials provided by
18 the Illinois High School Association to educate coaches,
19 student athletes, and parents and guardians of student athletes
20 about the nature and risk of concussions and head injuries,
21 including continuing play after a concussion or head injury.

22 (Source: P.A. 97-204, eff. 7-28-11; revised 10-7-11.)