

High School Activities Participation; SB 114

SB 114 authorizes non-public school students and virtual school students participating in a school activity governed by the Kansas State High School Activities Association (KSHSAA) to also participate in certain ancillary school district activities. The bill also permits students at the Kansas Academy of Mathematics and Science to participate in KSHSAA activities at the local public school.

Participation in KSHSAA Activities

Continuing law authorizes non-public school and virtual students who meet the requirements of law to participate in activities that are regulated, supervised, promoted, and developed by the KSHSAA. The bill adds provisions to require participating students to also be permitted to participate in any district-sponsored events, ceremonies, programs, or other functions directly related to the activity. The bill authorizes each school district board of education to adopt policies regarding the participation of those students in district-sponsored events, ceremonies, programs, or other functions that are not directly related to the activity.

The bill deems any student who withdraws from a school district and subsequently enrolls in an accredited private school, a non-public elementary or secondary school, or a virtual school to be ineligible for full participation in any activities offered by the school district for a period subject to KSHSAA rules immediately following the student's withdrawal, unless the student was eligible and participating in the activities at the school from which the student withdrew on the date of withdrawal. Such student can be permitted limited participation in any qualifying activities, in accordance with the eligibility policies of the school district and KSHSAA.

The bill also provides that a student participating in a KSHSAA activity in this manner is entitled to all rights and subject to all responsibilities of any other participating student except as otherwise provided for in law, regardless of the student's enrollment status.

The bill deems it unlawful for any school district or the KSHSAA to discriminate against any student who meets the requirements of the law based upon the student's enrollment status.

Eligibility Requirements

The bill amends the eligibility requirements so that a student who meets the following requirements could participate in KSHSAA-regulated activities in the school district in which the Kansas Academy of Mathematics and Science (KAMS) is located:

- Be enrolled in KAMS;
- Comply with requirements established in law;
- Meet applicable age and eligibility requirements set forth by the KSHSAA; and
- Pay any fees required by the school district on all students participating in the activity.