

Beyond Virginia: Homeschool Sports Access Laws and Policies

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VaHomeschoolers' research indicates that **29 states currently have statutes or voluntary policies** of some kind regarding homeschooled students' participation in high school sports and activities. In **22** of these states, homeschooled students' participation is addressed in statute, and in the remaining **seven** states, it is guided at the policy level.

These statutes and policies vary a great deal. **Fourteen states have broad statutes that add few or no special requirements for homeschoolers in good standing who wish to participate** (these statutes are summarized on page 3). Others require students to enroll part time in public schools, or give local school boards, superintendents or individual school principals the authority to set their own policies.

Legislation related to homeschool sports access has been introduced in sixteen states in recent years, including Virginia. (South Carolina passed an access bill in 2012.)

Only five states do not have either some form of homeschool sports access or recent legislation aimed at creating such access.

Homeschool Sports Access Permitted	29	Statute	22	AZ, CO, FL, ID, IA, IL, LA, ME, MN, NV, NH, NM, ND, OR, PA, SC ¹ , SD, UT, VT, WA, WY
		Policy	7	AK ² , AR ³ , MA, NE, NJ, OH, RI, TN ⁴
No Access	21	Legislation Introduced	16	AL, GA, HI, IN, KS, KY, MD, MS, MO, NY, NC, OK, TX, VA, WV, WI
		No Legislation	5	CA, CT, DE, MI, MT

1. South Carolina passed legislation in 2012.

2. The Alaska School Activities Association allows homeschool participation on a limited basis, and 2012 legislation allows "home school programs accredited by a recognized accrediting body" to participate in interscholastic activities in public schools.

3. The Arkansas Activities Association adopted eligibility rules for homeschooled students in 2012, following homeschool access legislation in the Arkansas General Assembly in 2009 and 2011.

4. Tennessee currently allows limited access by policy, and legislation has been proposed in recent years to broaden that access.

Sources:

1. Batista, Paul J. and Lance C. Hatfield, "Learn at Home, Play at School: A State-by-State Examination of Legislation, Litigation and Athletic Association Rules Governing Public School Athletic Participation by Homeschool Students." *Journal of Legal Aspects of Sport*, Summer 2005, 213.
2. Indiana High School Athletic Association survey, 2010. <http://www.in.gov/legislative/igareports/agency/reports/IDOE20.pdf>
3. Alabama Equal Access. www.timtebowbill.com
4. HSLDA. http://www.hsllda.org/docs/nche/Issues/E/Equal_Access.pdf

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State	Access by Statute		Access by Policy (Limited)	No Access	
	Full	Limited		Legislation	No Legislation
Alabama				XXX	
Alaska		XXX			
Arizona	XXX				
Arkansas			XXX		
California					XXX
Colorado	XXX				
Connecticut					XXX
Delaware					XXX
Florida	XXX				
Georgia				XXX	
Hawaii				XXX	
Idaho		XXX			
Illinois		XXX			
Indiana				XXX	
Iowa		XXX			
Kansas				XXX	
Kentucky				XXX	
Louisiana		XXX			
Maine	XXX				
Maryland				XXX	
Massachusetts			XXX		
Michigan					XXX
Minnesota	XXX				
Mississippi				XXX	
Missouri				XXX	
Montana					XXX
Nebraska			XXX		
Nevada	XXX				
New Hampshire	XXX				
New Jersey			XXX		
New Mexico	XXX				
New York				XXX	
North Carolina				XXX	
North Dakota		XXX			
Ohio			XXX		
Oklahoma				XXX	
Oregon	XXX				
Pennsylvania	XXX				
Rhode Island			XXX		
South Carolina	XXX				
South Dakota		XXX			
Tennessee			XXX		
Texas				XXX	
Utah	XXX				
Vermont	XXX				
Virginia				XXX	
Washington		XXX			
West Virginia				XXX	
Wisconsin				XXX	
Wyoming	XXX				

Summaries of 14 State Statutes: Homeschool Sports Access

Arizona	Home-instructed students are allowed to participate in the public schools' interscholastic activities. AZ Revised Statutes § 15-802.01.
Colorado	Children participating in a nonpublic, home-based education program are allowed equal access to the public schools' extracurricular and interscholastic activities. Colorado Revised Statutes § 22-33-104.5(6) and Colorado Revised Statutes § 22-32-116.5.
Florida	Home-educated students are eligible to participate in the public schools' interscholastic extracurricular activities. Florida Statutes § 1006.15.
Maine	Students receiving home instruction may enroll in any specific classes at the appropriate public school. This includes all academic, co-curricular and extracurricular activities. Maine Revised Statutes 20-A § 5021.
Minnesota	School districts "shall allow all resident pupils receiving instruction in a home school...to be eligible to fully participate in extracurricular [but not co-curricular] activities on the same basis as public school students." Minnesota Statutes Annotated, 123B.49, Subd. 4(a).
Nevada	The board of trustees of the school district must allow homeschooled students to participate in classes, extracurricular and interscholastic activities, and sports in the district in which the student resides, subject to statutory requirements. The governing body of a charter school must allow homeschooled students to participate in classes and extracurricular activities when all statutory requirements are met. A notice of intent of a homeschooled child to participate in programs and activities must be filed with the school district. Nevada Revised Statutes § 392.070, § 386.462, and § 386.580.
New Hampshire	Nonpublic or home educated pupils shall have access to curricular courses and cocurricular programs offered by the school district in which the pupil resides. Local school board policies may not be more restrictive for non-public or home educated pupils than for public school students. ("cocurricular" includes clubs, athletics, performing groups and school/community service groups) New Hampshire Revised Statutes § 193:1-c.
New Mexico	A homeschool student is eligible to participate in three school district athletic activities at the public school in the attendance zone in which the student resides, according to the New Mexico activities association guidelines. The school district shall verify each homeschool student's academic eligibility to participate in school district athletic activities. New Mexico Statutes Annotated § 22-8-23.8. <i>*Access broadened from one activity to three via legislation in 2009.</i>
Oregon	School districts must allow homeschool students access to public school interscholastic activities. OR Rev. Statutes § 339.460.
Pennsylvania	Homeschooled students meeting the same eligibility criteria as public-school students may participate in extracurricular activities of their public school district of residence. Such activities include, but are not limited to clubs, musical ensembles, athletics, and theatrical productions. 24 Pennsylvania Statutes Annotated § 13-1327.1(f.1).
South Carolina	Homeschooled students who have been homeschooling for at least one full academic year in compliance with SC code may participate in athletic and other extracurricular activities at the public school for the attendance zone in which they reside. SC Governor's School and charter school students are also eligible. Provision to prohibit eligibility of public school students who previously failed to meet academic eligibility requirements. SC Code Article 1, Section 59-63-100
Utah	Homeschool students shall be eligible to participate in extracurricular activities at a public school consistent with eligibility standards. School districts may not impose additional requirements on homeschool students that are not imposed on fully enrolled public school students. Utah Code § 53A-11-102.6 Homeschool students who are dual-enrolled are eligible to participate in any extracurricular or co-curricular activity in the public school available to students in their grade or age group, subject to compliance with the same rules and requirements that apply to a full-time student's participation in the activity. State Board of Education Regulation R277-438-4. Utah Code § 53A-11-102.5.
Vermont	School boards are required to adopt rules to integrate home-study students into school courses (co-curricular and extracurricular) and use of facilities. Vermont Statutes Annotated 16 § 563(24). School boards must follow Vermont Department of Education guidelines found in Code of Vermont Rules 22-000-009, Sec. 4401-4405.
Wyoming	State law permits non-enrolled students to participate in any activities sanctioned by the Wyoming High School Activities Association offered by the district. Wyoming Statutes Chapter 4 § 21-4-506. 2009 legislation requires that any fees charged to homeschooled students be "equally imposed on all students within the district." The Wyoming High School Activities Association allows home-educated students to play on participating schools' sports teams. WHSAA Rules 3.1.3, 6.2.0, 6.4.