

CCS HCS SS SB 63 -- STUDENTS IN NONTRADITIONAL EDUCATIONAL SETTINGS

PARTICIPATION IN SCHOOL EVENTS OR ACTIVITIES (Section 167.012, 167.013, and 167.790)

The bill provides that a school district or charter school must not be a member of, or remit any funds to, any statewide activities association that would require the school to prohibit a student receiving instruction at an FPE school, a home school, or a full-time virtual school from participating in any event or activity offered by the charter school or by the school district in which the student resides or that requires the student to take any class in order to participate in such event or activity.

The bill further provides that a school district or charter school must not prohibit the student from participating in any event or activity offered or require the student to take any class in order to participate in the event or activity. However, a school district or charter school can also require students to participate in components of instruction that are required for participation in fine arts activities, career and technical student organizations, or integrated cocurricular activities.

A school district or charter school can establish an attendance policy or disciplinary policy for any required coursework, rehearsals, practice sessions, or training sessions that are directly related to and required for trying out for, and if successful, participation in an event or activity.

Any school disciplinary policies and attendance policies will be applied in the same manner to all students who try out for and participate in an event or activity. A school district or charter school must not establish a separate disciplinary or attendance policy for students who receive instruction at an FPE school, a home school, or a full-time virtual school.

If a student whose academic performance or disciplinary status would preclude the student from eligibility to participate in extracurricular events or activities disenrolls from school in order to receive instruction at an FPE school, a home school, or a full-time virtual school, the student will not be eligible to participate in events or activities in the school of the student's disenrollment for 12 calendar months from the date of disenrollment.

The parent of a home school student must oversee any academic standards relating to such student's participation in a charter school or public school event or activity.

The bill provides certain criteria that an FPE school, home school, and full-time virtual school student must satisfy in order to be eligible to participate in charter school or public school activities in their district of residence, including: providing proof of residency in the district or within the boundaries of the attendance center or charter school in which they wish to participate in charter school or public school activities; and adhering to the same behavior, responsibility, performance and code of conduct standards related to the activity as students who are enrolled in the charter school or school district. Any records created pertaining to an FPE school student, home school student, or a full-time virtual school student will be confidential.

The bill allows schools to create policies that include or exclude FPE, home, and full-time virtual students in other functions of the school outside of athletic, fine arts, and integrated cocurricular.

#### DECLARATIONS OF INTENT TO HOME SCHOOL (Section 167.042)

The bill modifies the provision authorizing parents to submit a written declaration of intent to home school their child to the recorder of deeds of the county where the child legally resides or to the superintendent of the public school district where the child legally resides. The bill changes the provision to allow for written notification to be provided to the school, instead of the recorder of deeds, and then the school will drop the child from the district rolls.