



SOUTH CAROLINA HIGH SCHOOL LEAGUE

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TO: Superintendents, Principals and Athletics Directors

FROM: Dr. Jerome Singleton, Commissioner *J.S.*
SC High School League

SUBJECT: 2024-2025 Approved Budget

DATE: July 10, 2024

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Greetings,

Hope this correspondence finds you well as we prepare for a new school year.

This correspondence comes to you as information. The South Carolina Legislative General Assembly and the Governor have approved the Budget for the 2024-2025 fiscal year. In the approved Budget, several provisos have been added that may affect the member schools athletics programs (See attached information).

As Commissioners, I have requested the South Carolina Attorney General's opinion/clarification on the provisos. Once received, it will be shared with the member schools.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Part 1B SECTION 1 - H630 - DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

2024-2025 Budget Provisos

PART 1B OPERATION OF STATE GOVERNMENT

SECTION 1 - H630 - DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

1.49. (SDE: Interscholastic Athletic Association Dues) (A) A public school district supported by state funds shall not use any funds or permit any school within the district to use any funds to join, affiliate with, pay dues or fees to, or in any way financially support any interscholastic athletic association, body, or entity unless the constitution, rules, or policies of the association, body, or entity contain the following:

(d) an appeal stays the determination of a sanction made by the association, body, or entity, or staff member of such, pending the outcome of the appeal;

(5) a uniform system applicable to all member schools establishing fines for the cancellation of a scheduled game regardless of if the game is in or out of region. At a minimum, the school canceling the scheduled game must be fined an amount equal to the cost incurred for officials, tickets, and concessions. If the game is rescheduled or cancelled for a documented health or safety reason, the school shall not be fined.

1.118. (SDE: Interscholastic athletics) (A) No funds appropriated or authorized in this act that are distributed to a school district may be used to deny individual students who attend independent schools in this State the opportunity to try out for and, if selected, participate in an interscholastic athletic program offered at a public school in the district if the:

(1) student resides within the attendance zone boundaries of the public school;

(2) independent school that the student attends is not a member of the **South Carolina High School League** and the private schools enrollment for grades nine through twelve does not exceed two hundred students;

(3) independent school attended by the student does not offer the particular sport for the students gender;

(4) particular sport in which the student seeks to participate is offered at the public school located in the attendance zone where the student resides;

(5) student notifies the superintendent of the public school district in writing of his intent to try out in the particular sport as a representative of the public school before the beginning date of the season for the sport in which he wishes to try out;

(6) student pays for all sport-specific fees charged by the public school for an individual student to participate in the particular sport;

(7) student meets all public school district eligibility requirements with the exception of the:

(a) school districts school or class attendance requirements; and

(b) class and enrollment requirements of the association administering the interscholastic sports;

(8) student and the students parent or guardian agree for the student to be subject to the code of conduct of the public school; and

(9) student was not expelled from the same public school during the same academic year.

(B) Additionally, a public school district may not expend funds to contract with a private entity that supervises interscholastic athletic programs if the private entity prohibits the participation of independent school students in interscholastic athletic programs supervised by the entity.

(C) Eligibility requirements for new students to participate in interscholastic athletics shall be no more restrictive in language or application than the rules or policies of the association, body, or entity that were in effect on January 1, 2020

(D) A public school may expend funds on students specified in subsection (A) to participate in an interscholastic athletic program.

(E) The provisions of this proviso shall not be construed as imputing any public school academic, athletic, or extracurricular policies or procedures to any private school that a student attends if that student also participates in a public high school league sport pursuant to the terms of this act outside of the requirements related to maintaining a certain grade-point average and grade level for participating in and attending regularly scheduled practices of the sports team.

(F) For purposes of this proviso, independent school means a school:

(1) established by an entity other than the State or a subdivision of the State;

(2) supported primarily by private or nonpublic funds; and

(3) operated by private individuals operating in their private capacity and not by people who are publicly elected or appointed to operate the school.