

POLICY BRIEF: Extracurricular Access for Homeschool Students

BACKGROUND

Youth participation in extracurricular activities, from sports and athletics to arts opportunities, is nearly universally agreed upon as an important developmental opportunity promoting positive outcomes¹. Engagement in these exploratory activities is typically hosted by community organizations for younger children, but as these students age up, extracurricular activities are likely to be completed in or associated with their school of enrollment.

For homeschooled students, who are de facto not enrolled in that structured school community, there can be an opportunity gap as they seek benefits of extracurriculars accessible to their peers. Benefits include improved social connections, positive self image, and increased social-emotional health², and are also strongly considered in college applications³.

Some states have passed legislation that supports homeschooled children participating in extracurricular activities hosted by public schools. In others, it is determined district by district. In many states, though, it remains impossible for homeschooled children to access these resources⁴.

¹ Verner-Filion, J., Holding, A., Gingras, I., Koestner, R. (2025). Extracurricular Activities—Extra Beneficial: The Role of Motivation for Extracurricular Activities on Outcomes in High-School Students. *Journal of Adolescence*, 97(7), pp. 1869-1881. <https://doi.org/10.1002/jad.70008>

² Massoni, Erin (2011) "Positive Effects of Extra Curricular Activities on Students," ESSAI: Vol. 9, Article 27. <https://dc.cod.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1370&context=essai>

³ Durrani, A. (2025, August 20). *How colleges weigh high school extracurriculars*. usnews.com. <https://www.usnews.com/education/best-high-schools/articles/how-colleges-weigh-high-school-extracurriculars>

⁴ *Homeschool sports access by State*. Coalition for Responsible Home Education. <https://crhe.org/research/current-policy/homeschool-sports-access-by-state/>

RECOMMENDATION

CRHE recommends that legislators seize the opportunity to increase access to extracurriculars for homeschooled students, for two reasons. First, the undeniable positive outcomes of youth participation in extracurriculars should extend to children in all educational modalities⁵. Second, homeschooled students that participate in extracurricular activities will have increased access to additional safe adults, taking a step towards measures consistent with current child safety recommendations⁶.

ANALYSIS

Under current law: Homeschooled children have inconsistent access to public school classes, sports, and other activities nationwide.

Under the Make Homeschool Safe Act⁷: Homeschooled children must be allowed to take part in classes, sports, and other activities available at their local public school as long as fairness and eligibility requirements are met, and schools receive appropriate funding.

Why it matters: Homeschooled children deserve an equal playing field with their peers in public school. Extracurricular access is an important part of college enrollment, career preparedness, and educational enrichment.

taken from <https://crhe.org/make-homeschool-safe-act/>

⁵ Verner-Filion et al, *supra* note 1

⁶ *Safe adults*. Monique Burr Foundation. (2022, February 28). <https://mbfpreventioneducation.org/safe-adults/>

⁷ CRHE (2024), *Make Homeschool Safe Act (MHSA)*, (2022 Rev.). Coalition for Responsible Home Education. <https://crhe.org/make-homeschool-safe-act/>

CURRENT LEGISLATIVE OPPORTUNITIES

- HAWAII - [HB 258](#)

Carried over to 2026 regular session, this bill creates additional sports programming for students in rapidly growing West Oahu. As the potential participants in youth sports has expanded, schools are forced to cut more and more interested students from teams. This legislation calls for implementation of a supplemental sports program for high school students in West Oahu- there is an opportunity for advocacy encouraging lawmakers to include homeschooled students in that language to support their participation.
- MICHIGAN - [SB 589](#)

Currently in committee, this bill (introduced by Senators Bellino, Damoose, Daley, Theis, Runestad and McBroom) amends 1976 PA 451 (MCL 380.1 - 380.1852) by adding sec. 1290, which requires school boards to allow homeschoolers participation in certain extracurricular activities.
- MISSISSIPPI - [SB 2070](#)

Referred to the education committee, Senator DeBar introduced a “Tim Tebow”⁸ Act on January 8th after success last season in the House.

CONCLUSION

Access to extracurriculars, enshrined in policy, is an important opportunity for legislators to support homeschooled children.

Ultimately, participation will be based on the motivations of homeschooling parents, and the actual engagement in these resources remains to be seen (and the impact thereof). However, as the education modality of homeschooling changes and diversity is embraced, there is likely at least some benefit in enacting these recommendations.

⁸ Chester, G. (2020, June 19). *Tim Tebow's sports law legacy is the home-schooled athlete debate*. Sports Litigation Alert.
<https://sportslitigationalert.com/tim-tebows-sports-law-legacy-is-the-home-schooled-athlete-debate/>