



To: Diocesan Attorneys  
Council of Catholic Superintendents  
Government Program Coordinators  
Diocesan Network Directors

From: George V. Corwell, Ed.D.  
Director: Office of Education

Date: July 13, 2017

Re: S2348 - Student-Athlete Head Injury Safety Program

Yesterday, Governor Christie signed into law S2348 (Ruiz, Diegnan, et al.). The bill amends current law to include students participating in intramural sports programs, organized by a public or nonpublic school, in the head injury safety program that is required for students who participate in interscholastic sports programs.

Under current law, the Department of Education was required to develop and implement, by the 2011-2012 school year, a head injury safety training program on the recognition of the symptoms of head injuries and the appropriate amount of time to delay the return to competition of a student who suffers a head injury. The program must be completed by school physicians, coaches, and athletic trainers involved in public or nonpublic school interscholastic sports programs and cheerleading programs. The law also required school districts to develop a written policy concerning the prevention and treatment of sports-related concussions and other head injuries among student-athletes and cheerleaders. Finally, the law provides that students who participate in interscholastic sports programs or cheerleading programs who sustain or are suspected of having sustained a concussion or other head injury while engaged in a sports competition or practice must be immediately removed from the competition or practice and may not return to competition or practice until evaluated and cleared by a physician.

Again, the law broadens the safety program to include students in intermural sports programs. The law will take effect on October 10, 2017, the 90<sup>th</sup> day after signing, which was July 12, 2017. Thank you for your consideration.

GVC:ac

*Emailed Communication*