

As Introduced

136th General Assembly

Regular Session

2025-2026

H. B. No. 625

Representatives Click, King

Cosponsors: Representatives Williams, Newman

To enact section 3313.5321 of the Revised Code to 1
enact the Student Athlete Mobility (SAM) Act 2
regarding student petitions to participate in 3
team sports at neighboring public schools. 4

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF OHIO:

Section 1. That section 3313.5321 of the Revised Code be 5
enacted to read as follows: 6

Sec. 3313.5321. (A) As used in this section: 7

(1) "Community school" means a community school 8
established under Chapter 3314. Of the Revised Code. 9

(2) "High school" means a school that serves any of grades 10
nine through twelve. 11

(3) "Neighboring school" means either of the following: 12

(a) For a board of education, any of the following: 13

(i) A high school operated by the board of education other 14
than the high school in which the student is enrolled; 15

(ii) A high school operated by a school district that 16
directly borders the board of education's school district; 17

<u>(iii) If the board of education's school district borders</u>	18
<u>Lake Erie, a high school operated by an island school district;</u>	19
<u>(iv) Any other public high school that is located within</u>	20
<u>the territory of either the board of education's school district</u>	21
<u>or a school district that directly borders the board of</u>	22
<u>education's school district.</u>	23
<u>(b) For a school governing body, any of the following:</u>	24
<u>(i) A high school operated by the board of education of</u>	25
<u>the school district in which the other public high school is</u>	26
<u>located;</u>	27
<u>(ii) A high school operated by a school district that</u>	28
<u>directly borders the school district in which the other public</u>	29
<u>high school is located;</u>	30
<u>(iii) A different other public high school that is located</u>	31
<u>within the territory of either of the following:</u>	32
<u>(I) The school district in which the other public high</u>	33
<u>school is located;</u>	34
<u>(II) A school district that directly borders that school</u>	35
<u>district in which the other public high school is located.</u>	36
<u>(4) "Other public high school" means a community school or</u>	37
<u>STEM school that is a high school.</u>	38
<u>(5) "School governing body" means the governing authority</u>	39
<u>of a community school or the governing body of a STEM school.</u>	40
<u>(6) "STEM school" means a STEM school established under</u>	41
<u>Chapter 3326. of the Revised Code.</u>	42
<u>(7) "Team sport" means baseball, basketball, field hockey,</u>	43
<u>football, hockey, lacrosse, soccer, softball, tennis,</u>	44

volleyball, or any other sport that requires cooperative 45
participation by multiple students and would be impractical to 46
compete with a single student. 47

(B) Beginning with the 2026-2027 school year, each school 48
district board of education and school governing body that 49
operates a high school that offers a team sport and is a member 50
school of an organization that regulates interscholastic 51
athletics shall adopt a policy that permits a student who is 52
enrolled in a neighboring school that does not offer that team 53
sport to petition to participate in that team sport at the board 54
of education's or school governing body's high school. Each 55
policy shall include all of the following: 56

(1) The form and manner in which a neighboring school 57
student may petition to participate in a team sport; 58

(2) A requirement that both of the following approve the 59
student's participation in the team sport: 60

(a) The neighboring school's superintendent or chief 61
administrative officer; 62

(b) The executive director of the organization that 63
regulates interscholastic athletics. 64

(3) A requirement that, if the student is enrolled in a 65
school district that operates multiple high schools, the student 66
must first petition to participate in a team sport at another 67
high school operated by the district if one offers the team 68
sport. If a student is not approved to participate in a sport at 69
another school operated by the student's district, the student 70
may petition to participate in the team sport under the policy 71
at a high school that is not operated by the student's district. 72

(C) A student shall not participate in the same team sport 73

under this section at more than one high school operated by a 74
school district or other public high school in any one school 75
year. 76

(D) If a high school operated by a school district or 77
other public high school participates in any regular season 78
contest for a team sport and subsequently ceases offering that 79
team sport before the conclusion of the athletic season, a 80
student enrolled in that school is not eligible to petition to 81
participate in that team sport under this section until the next 82
school year. 83

(E) A student is not eligible to petition to participate 84
in a team sport under this section solely because the school in 85
which the student is enrolled does not offer the competition 86
level at which the student wishes to participate, such as a 87
varsity, junior varsity, or freshman team. 88

(F) A board of education or school governing body that 89
operates a high school and is a member school of an organization 90
that regulates interscholastic athletics may partner with a 91
neighboring school to establish a single team if neither school 92
has a sufficient number of students willing to participate in 93
the team sport. A sufficient number of students shall mean the 94
sum of: 95

(the minimum number of students required for competition 96
in a team sport during play) + (half of that number, rounded up 97
to the nearest whole). 98

Section 2. This act shall be known as the Student Athlete 99
Mobility (SAM) Act. 100