

Non-Academic Involvement in Public Schools – FHE’s policy

When dealing with non-academic involvement with public schools such as sports competitions and extracurricular activities or clubs, FHE must consider all dynamics. The three primary issues to balance are: 1.) Home school students having the equal opportunity to play on teams in their school district, or participate in programs or clubs with or without competitions. 2.) Home School sports teams afforded equal and fair access to play against public and/or private school teams of similar size and matched according to the same guidelines as other brick and mortar school teams. And, 3.) First and foremost, adequate safeguards that home school sports or extracurricular participation does not result in additional regulatory schemes over home education.

FHE has no specific policy or legislative agenda in this arena other than to guarantee that no proposed legislation is advanced without appropriate protections against regulations. Current public school policies are highly discriminatory against home education students. Participation in sports programs or non-academic extracurricular clubs and activities require a combination enrollment (enrollment in a home school and in the public school) of at least two hours of public school classes, but the local school may require more hours. This allows public schools to collect extra funding for those students, but it also creates an unfair and oppressive restriction on home school students and families.

While FHE recognizes these complications as unjust and discriminatory, we will not support any changes to the law unless it is balanced and guarantees home school freedoms. FHE will not support changes that only benefit some home school families and pit those who participate on home school teams against those who wish to join public school teams. Most importantly, FHE will not support any legislation that places home education or families at regulatory risks. Public school teachers who give qualifying grades to students to play on teams are never challenged, thus home school teachers must be treated the same.

Therefore, FHE is neutral on the non-academic involvement in public schools portion of the bills.