

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MAY 31, 2016  
AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 13, 2016  
AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MARCH 29, 2016  
CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2015–16 REGULAR SESSION

**ASSEMBLY BILL**

**No. 2182**

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**Introduced by Assembly Member Mullin**

February 18, 2016

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An act to add Section 49475.6 to, and to add and repeal Section 49475.5 of, the Education Code, relating to school athletics.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 2182, as amended, Mullin. School athletics: neurocognitive testing.

(1) Existing law requires a school district, charter school, or private school, if it offers an athletic program, to immediately remove an athlete from an athletic activity for the remainder of the day if the athlete is suspected of sustaining a concussion or head injury, and prohibits the athlete from returning to the athletic activity until the athlete is evaluated by a licensed health care provider, trained in the management of concussions and acting within the scope of his or her practice, and the athlete receives written clearance from the licensed health care provider to return to the athletic activity. Existing law also requires, on a yearly basis, a concussion and head injury information sheet to be signed and returned by the athlete and athlete's parent or guardian before the athlete initiates practice or competition.

~~This bill would express legislative findings and declarations relating to concussions or traumatic injuries sustained by pupils participating~~

~~in high school interscholastic athletics and the value of neurocognitive testing.~~

~~The~~

*This bill would establish the Neurocognitive Testing Pilot Grant Program to commence in the 2017–18 school year; provide grant funding to Title I schools for the purposes of neurocognitive testing. The bill would require the State Department of Education to develop an application for school districts interested in participating in the pilot program. Superintendent of Public Instruction to establish an application process for school districts to apply on behalf of Title I schools interested in participating in the pilot program. The bill would require grants under the pilot program to be apportioned to a total of 3 school districts, comprising one school district in each of the following regions of the state: southern, central, and northern. A participating school district would be required to commit to participating in the pilot program for 4 school years in order to track pupils tested in grade 9 through completion of high school.*~~The~~

*The bill would ~~provide~~ require that grant funds, based on an appropriation in the annual Budget Act or another statute, funds would be used for baseline and postinjury neurocognitive testing, as defined, for pupils attending a Title I school serving any of grades 9 to 12, inclusive, who participate in interscholastic athletics in any of 12 designated sports. The bill would require this baseline and postinjury neurocognitive testing to take place at the beginning of an athletic season before any competitions have taken place and after any head injury, and would require that this baseline neurocognitive testing be repeated at intervals not exceeding 24 months for as long as the athlete is enrolled at the school. school and participating in one or more of the 12 sports listed in the bill. The bill would require the baseline and postinjury neurocognitive testing conducted pursuant to the bill to be administered by individuals, including, but not necessarily limited to, employees of a participating school district, who have been trained to administer these tests.*

The bill would also provide that grant funds could be used for training of personnel and consultation with experts, as specified. The bill would further provide that, under the pilot program, the parent or guardian of each athlete participating in any of the 12 interscholastic sports listed in the bill would be notified, in writing, that the results of baseline and postinjury neurocognitive testing conducted on his or her child are

available to the child’s parent or guardian, or could be shared with the athlete’s physician, upon request.

The bill would also provide that grant funds could be used for reporting specified data relating to the baseline neurocognitive testing to the appropriate county office of education. The bill would require the State Department of Education to submit a report containing specified information to the appropriate policy committees of the Legislature on or before December 31, 2021.

*These provisions would be contingent upon the appropriation of funds for their purposes in the annual Budget Act or another statute.*

These provisions would be repealed on January 1, 2022.

(2) Existing law provides that, if a licensed health care provider determines that an athlete sustained a concussion or a head injury while engaging in an athletic activity, the athlete is required to complete a graduated return-to-play protocol of no less than 7 days in duration under the supervision of a licensed health care provider.

This bill would require a school district, charter school, or private school that offers an interscholastic athletic program to collect and maintain data on traumatic brain injuries and concussions sustained by any of its pupils during an interscholastic athletic activity. The bill would require that this data be reported periodically to the appropriate county office of education, and would require the county office of education to compile and retain the data for summary and analysis as it deems necessary. By imposing new duties on county offices of education, the bill would impose a state-mandated local program.

(3) The California Constitution requires the state to reimburse local agencies and school districts for certain costs mandated by the state. Statutory provisions establish procedures for making that reimbursement.

This bill would provide that, if the Commission on State Mandates determines that the bill contains costs mandated by the state, reimbursement for those costs shall be made pursuant to these statutory provisions.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes.  
State-mandated local program: yes.

*The people of the State of California do enact as follows:*

1 SECTION 1. ~~The Legislature finds and declares all of the~~  
2 ~~following:~~

1     ~~(a) The California Interscholastic Federation (CIF), California’s~~  
 2 ~~governing body for high school sports, requires that, if it is~~  
 3 ~~suspected that a pupil has sustained a concussion or traumatic brain~~  
 4 ~~injury in an athletic competition, the pupil must be removed from~~  
 5 ~~competition immediately and required to receive written clearance~~  
 6 ~~from a licensed health care provider before returning to~~  
 7 ~~competition.~~

8     ~~(b) Section 49475 of the Education Code, as it was amended~~  
 9 ~~by Assembly Bill 2127 of the 2013–14 Regular Session of the~~  
 10 ~~Legislature effective January 1, 2015, provides that a pupil athlete~~  
 11 ~~who has been diagnosed with a concussion cannot return to play~~  
 12 ~~sooner than seven days after having been evaluated and diagnosed~~  
 13 ~~by a licensed health care provider.~~

14     ~~(c) The value of neurocognitive testing is that it establishes a~~  
 15 ~~baseline of each athlete’s normal neurocognitive functioning before~~  
 16 ~~beginning athletic activity. By establishing this baseline, an athlete~~  
 17 ~~with a suspected head injury can then be retested to help assess~~  
 18 ~~the degree of injury.~~

19     ~~(d) Following any kind of head injury, athletes retake the test~~  
 20 ~~and have the results judged against the baseline test. This is~~  
 21 ~~especially important when an athlete experiences numerous hits~~  
 22 ~~to the head.~~

23     ~~SEC. 2.~~

24     ~~SECTION 1.~~ Section 49475.5 is added to the Education Code,  
 25 to read:

26     49475.5. (a) The Neurocognitive Testing Pilot Grant Program  
 27 is hereby established, commencing with the 2017–18 school year.  
 28 The department shall develop an application for school districts  
 29 interested in participating in the pilot program. A participating  
 30 school district shall commit to participating in the pilot program  
 31 for four school years in order to track pupils tested in grade 9  
 32 through completion of high school. *established to provide grant*  
 33 *funding to Title I schools for the purposes of neurocognitive testing.*

34     (b) Grant funds, based on an appropriation in the annual Budget  
 35 Act or another statute, *The Superintendent shall establish an*  
 36 *application process for school districts to apply on behalf of Title*  
 37 *I schools interested in participating in the pilot program. Grants*  
 38 *shall be apportioned under the pilot program to a total of three*  
 39 *school districts, which shall comprise one school district in each*  
 40 *of the following regions of the state: southern, central, and*

1 *northern. Each school district shall commit to participating in the*  
2 *pilot program for four school years in order to track pupils tested*  
3 *in grade 9 through completion of high school. Grant funding shall*  
4 *be used for the following:*

5 (1) (A) *Baseline and postinjury neurocognitive testing of pupils*  
6 *attending a Title I school serving any of grades 9 to 12, inclusive,*  
7 *participating in interscholastic athletics in any of the following*  
8 *sports:*

9 (i) *Baseball.*

10 (ii) *Basketball.*

11 (iii) *Cheerleading.*

12 (iv) *Field hockey.*

13 (v) *Football.*

14 (vi) *Ice hockey.*

15 (vii) *Lacrosse.*

16 (viii) *Rugby.*

17 (ix) *Soccer.*

18 (x) *Softball.*

19 (xi) *Volleyball.*

20 (xii) *Wrestling.*

21 (B) *The baseline and postinjury neurocognitive testing*  
22 *conducted pursuant to this subdivision shall take place at the*  
23 *beginning of an athletic season before any competitions have taken*  
24 *place and after any head injury, and baseline testing shall be*  
25 *repeated at intervals not exceeding 24 months for as long as the*  
26 *athlete is enrolled at the ~~school.~~ school, provided that the athlete*  
27 *is still participating in one or more of the 12 sports listed in*  
28 *subparagraph (A). The baseline and postinjury neurocognitive*  
29 *testing conducted pursuant to this subdivision shall be administered*  
30 *by individuals who have been trained to administer these tests.*  
31 *These individuals may include, but are not necessarily limited to,*  
32 *employees of a participating school district.*

33 (2) *Postinjury neurocognitive testing of an athlete who is*  
34 *suspected of sustaining a concussion or head injury in an*  
35 *interscholastic athletic activity. Postinjury neurocognitive tests*  
36 *shall be conducted within 72 hours of the occurrence of the injury.*

37 (3) *Training of personnel or to consult with experts on the*  
38 *interpretation of postinjury test results. The parent or guardian of*  
39 *each athlete participating in any of the sports listed in paragraph*  
40 (1) *shall also be notified, in writing, that the results of baseline*

1 and postinjury neurocognitive testing conducted on his or her child  
2 are available to the child’s parent or guardian upon request. These  
3 neurocognitive testing results may also be shared with the athlete’s  
4 physician upon the request of the athlete’s parent or guardian.

5 (4) Reporting to the county office of education data that includes  
6 an overview of the baseline neurocognitive testing conducted for  
7 each of the sports listed in paragraph (1), and an overview of  
8 normal, abnormal, and followup postinjury neurocognitive tests.  
9 The data shall also include the number of athletes who discontinue  
10 participation in the sport following a concussion and postinjury  
11 testing.

12 (c) For purposes of this section, “neurocognitive testing” means  
13 a comprehensive evaluation of a person’s cognitive status by  
14 specific neurologic domains, including, but not necessarily limited  
15 to, memory, attention, problem solving, language, visuospatial,  
16 processing speed, motor, and emotion.

17 (d) (1) The department shall, based on the data collected by the  
18 county offices of education located in the area of participating  
19 school districts, prepare a report including, but not necessarily  
20 limited to, all of the following information:

21 (A) The number of athletes who received the baseline tests.

22 (B) The number of athletes who received the postinjury tests.

23 (C) The number of athletes who had taken the tests and  
24 discontinued participation in any of the sports set forth in  
25 subdivision (b) due to concussion injuries.

26 (2) The report prepared pursuant to this subdivision shall be  
27 submitted to the appropriate policy committees of the Legislature  
28 on or before December 31, 2021, and shall comply with Section  
29 9795 of the Government Code.

30 (e)

31 *(e) This section is contingent upon the appropriation of funds*  
32 *for its purposes in the annual Budget Act or another statute.*

33 (f) This section shall remain in effect only until January 1, 2022,  
34 and as of that date is repealed, unless a later enacted statute, that  
35 is enacted before January 1, 2022, deletes or extends that date.

36 ~~SEC. 3.~~

37 SEC. 2. Section 49475.6 is added to the Education Code, to  
38 read:

39 49475.6. A school district, charter school, or private school  
40 that elects to offer an interscholastic athletic program shall collect

1 and maintain data on traumatic brain injuries and concussions  
2 sustained by any of its pupils during an interscholastic athletic  
3 activity. This data shall be reported periodically to the appropriate  
4 county office of education, but the names of the injured pupils  
5 shall be kept confidential. The county office of education shall  
6 compile and retain the data for summary and analysis as it deems  
7 necessary.

8 ~~SEC. 4.~~

9 *SEC. 3.* If the Commission on State Mandates determines that  
10 this act contains costs mandated by the state, reimbursement to  
11 local agencies and school districts for those costs shall be made  
12 pursuant to Part 7 (commencing with Section 17500) of Division  
13 4 of Title 2 of the Government Code.