To promote State requirements for local educational agencies and public elementary and secondary schools relating to the prevention and treatment of concussions suffered by students.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 28, 2015

Mr. DESAULNIER introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Education and the Workforce

A BILL

To promote State requirements for local educational agencies and public elementary and secondary schools relating to the prevention and treatment of concussions suffered by students.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-
tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Protecting Student Athletes From Concussions Act of 2015”.
SEC. 2. MINIMUM STATE REQUIREMENTS.

Part E of title IX of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 7901 et seq.) is amended—

(1) by striking the heading relating to subpart 2 and inserting the following:

“Subpart 3—Other Provisions”;

and

(2) by inserting after subpart 1, the following new subpart:

“Subpart 2—State Requirements for the Prevention and Treatment of Concussions

SEC. 9511. MINIMUM STATE REQUIREMENTS.

“(a) In general.—Beginning fiscal year 2017, as a condition of receiving funds under this Act for a fiscal year, a State shall, not later than July 1 of the preceding fiscal year, certify to the Secretary in accordance with subsection (b) that the State has in effect and is enforcing a law or regulation that, at a minimum, establishes the following requirements:

“(1) Local educational agency concussion safety and management plan.—Each local educational agency in the State (including each charter school that is considered a local educational agency under State law), in consultation with members of the community in which the local educational
agency is located, shall develop and implement a standard plan for concussion safety and management for public schools served by the local educational agency that includes—

“(A) the education of students, parents, and school personnel about concussions, including—

“(i) the training of school personnel on evidence-based concussion safety and management, including on prevention, recognition, risk, academic consequences, and response for both initial and any subsequent concussions; and

“(ii) using, maintaining, and disseminating to students and parents release forms, treatment plans, observation, monitoring, and reporting forms, recordkeeping forms, and post-injury and prevention fact sheets about concussions;

“(B) supports for each student recovering from a concussion, including—

“(i) guiding the student in resuming participation in school-sponsored athletic activities and academic activities with the
help of a multidisciplinary concussion management team, which shall include—

“(I) a health care professional, the parents of such student, and other relevant school personnel; and

“(II) an individual who is assigned by the public school in which the student is enrolled to oversee and manage the recovery of the student;

“(ii) providing appropriate academic accommodations aimed at progressively reintroducing cognitive demands on such a student; and

“(iii) if the student’s symptoms of concussion persist for a substantial period of time—

“(I) evaluating the student in accordance with section 614 of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (20 U.S.C. 1414) to determine whether the student is eligible for services under part B of such Act (20 U.S.C. 1411 et seq.); or

“(II) evaluating whether the student is eligible for services under sec-
tion 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of
1973 (29 U.S.C. 794); and

“(C) best practices designed to ensure,
with respect to concussions, the uniformity of
safety standards, treatment, and management,
including—

“(i) disseminating information on con-
cussion safety and management to the
public; and

“(ii) applying best practice and uni-
form standards for concussion safety and
management to all students enrolled in the
public schools served by the local edu-
cational agency.

“(2) POSTING OF INFORMATION ON CONCUS-
sions.—Each public school in the State shall post
on school grounds, in a manner that is visible to stu-
dents and school personnel, and make publicly avail-
able on the school website, information on concus-
sions that—

“(A) is based on peer-reviewed scientific
evidence or consensus (such as information
made available by the Centers for Disease Con-
trol and Prevention);

“(B) shall include—
“(i) the risks posed by sustaining a concussion or multiple concussions;

“(ii) the actions a student should take in response to sustaining a concussion, including the notification of school personnel; and

“(iii) the signs and symptoms of a concussion; and

“(C) may include—

“(i) the definition of a concussion under section 9512(1);

“(ii) the means available to the student to reduce the incidence or recurrence of a concussion; and

“(iii) the effects of a concussion on academic learning and performance.

“(3) RESPONSE TO A CONCUSSION.—If any school personnel of a public school in the State suspect that a student has sustained a concussion during a school-sponsored athletic activity or other school-sponsored activity—

“(A) the student shall be—

“(i) immediately removed from participation in such activity; and
“(ii) prohibited from resuming participation in school-sponsored athletic activities—

“(I) on the day the student sustained the concussion; and

“(II) until the day the student is capable of resuming such participation, according to the student’s written release, as described in paragraph (4);

“(B) the school personnel shall report to the concussion management team—

“(i) that the student may have sustained a concussion; and

“(ii) all available information with respect to the student’s injury; and

“(C) the concussion management team shall confirm and report to the parents of the student—

“(i) the type of injury, and the date and time of the injury, suffered by the student; and

“(ii) any actions that have been taken to treat the student.
“(4) RETURN TO ATHLETICS.—If a student enrolled in a public school in the State sustains a concussion, before the student resumes participation in school-sponsored athletic activities, the relevant school personnel shall receive a written release from a health care professional, that—

“(A) may require the student to follow a plan designed to aid the student in recovering and resuming participation in such activities in a manner that—

“(i) is coordinated, as appropriate, with periods of cognitive and physical rest while symptoms of a concussion persist; and

“(ii) reintroduces cognitive and physical demands on the student on a progressive basis so long as such increases in exertion do not cause the reemergence or worsening of symptoms of a concussion; and

“(B) states that the student is capable of resuming participation in such activities once the student is asymptomatic.

“(5) RETURN TO ACADEMICS.—If a student enrolled in a public school in the State has sustained a concussion, the concussion management team (as
described under paragraph (1)(B)(i)) of the school
shall consult with and make recommendations to rel-
evant school personnel and the student to ensure
that the student is receiving the appropriate aca-
demic supports, including—

“(A) providing for periods of cognitive rest
over the course of the school day;

“(B) providing modified academic assign-
ments;

“(C) allowing for gradual reintroduction to
cognitive demands; and

“(D) other appropriate academic accom-
modations or adjustments.

“(b) Certification Requirement.—The certifi-
cation required under subsection (a) shall be in writing
and include a description of the law or regulation that
meets the requirements of subsection (a).

“SEC. 9512. DEFINITIONS.

“In this subpart:

“(1) Concussion.—The term ‘concussion’
means a type of mild traumatic brain injury that—

“(A) is caused by a blow, jolt, or motion
to the head or body that causes the brain to
move rapidly in the skull;
“(B) disrupts normal brain functioning and alters the physiological state of the individual, causing the individual to experience—

“(i) any period of observed or self-reported—

“(I) transient confusion, disorientation, or altered consciousness;

“(II) dysfunction of memory around the time of injury; or

“(III) disruptions in gait or balance; and

“(ii) symptoms that may include—

“(I) physical symptoms, such as headache, fatigue, or dizziness;

“(II) cognitive symptoms, such as memory disturbance or slowed thinking;

“(III) emotional symptoms, such as irritability or sadness; or

“(IV) difficulty sleeping; and

“(C) occurs—

“(i) with or without the loss of consciousness; and

“(ii) during participation—
“(I) in a school-sponsored athletic activity; or

“(II) in any other activity without regard to whether the activity takes place on school property or during the school day.

“(2) Health care professional.—The term ‘health care professional’ means a physician (including a medical doctor or doctor of osteopathic medicine), nurse, athletic trainer, physical therapist, neuropsychologist, or other qualified individual—

“(A) who is registered, licensed, certified, or otherwise statutorily recognized by the State to provide medical treatment; and

“(B) whose scope of practice and experience includes the diagnosis and management of traumatic brain injury among a pediatric population.

“(3) Public school.—The term ‘public school’ means a public elementary school or public secondary school.

“(4) School personnel.—The term ‘school personnel’ has the meaning given such term in section 4151, except that such term includes coaches and athletic trainers.
“(5) School-sponsored athletic activity.—The term ‘school-sponsored athletic activity’ means—

“(A) any physical education class or program of a public school;

“(B) any athletic activity authorized by a public school that takes place during the school day on the school’s property;

“(C) any activity of an extra-curricular sports team, club, or league organized by a public school; and

“(D) any recess activity of a public school.”.

SEC. 3. CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.

The table of contents in section 2 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 is amended—

(1) by striking the item relating to the heading of subpart 2 of part E of title IX and inserting the following new item:

“SUBPART 3. GENERAL PROVISIONS”;

and

(2) by inserting after the item relating to section 9506, the following new items:

“SUBPART 2. STATE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE PREVENTION AND TREATMENT OF CONCUSSIONS
“Sec. 9511. Minimum State requirements.
“Sec. 9512. Definitions.”.

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