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LEGISLATIVE EDUCATION STUDY COMMITTEE
BILL ANALYSIS
57th Legislature, 1st Session, 2025

Bill Number	<u>SB465</u>	Sponsor	<u>Maestas</u>
Tracking Number	<u>.229168.3</u>	Committee Referrals	<u>SEC/SHPAC</u>
Short Title	<u>Participation in School Sports</u>		
Analyst	<u>Bedeaux</u>	Original Date	<u>2/28/25</u>
		Last Updated	<u></u>

BILL SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

Senate Bill 465 (SB465) enacts a new section of the Public School Code to clarify students eligibility for participation in athletic activities, defined in the bill as a middle, junior high, or high school sport regulated by the New Mexico Athletics Association (NMAA).

SB465 would require that the membership of NMAA—as well as any other board of directors of an association that regulates public school extracurricular activities and cocurricular activities—is proportional to the population of counties represented by the board.

Under SB465, NMAA would not be allowed to prohibit students from participating in an athletic activity in the following cases:

1. The student participated in the activity while attending a different school;
2. The student participated on a team that was not school-sponsored or school-affiliated;
3. The student attended an athletic training camp; or
4. The student participated in a high school activity while in eighth grade.

SB465 also allows private schools to offer students scholarships to participate in athletic activities.

FISCAL IMPACT

SB465 does not contain an appropriation.

School districts can generate program units in the state equalization guarantee (SEG) for home school and charter school students that participate in extracurricular activities. SB465 may increase the number of program units school districts generate in the SEG by allowing more students to participate in extracurricular activities, but the overall impact of the bill is expected to be minimal.

SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES

SB465 would require NMAA to set new procedures for board member elections, potentially requiring every county in New Mexico to be represented on the board. NMAA is a nonprofit organization created in 1921 to regulate, direct, and administer interscholastic activities. NMAA oversees 14 athletic activities and 24 other extracurricular activities in the state.

Analysis from NMAA indicates over 30 thousand students participate in high school athletics each year. Of those students, approximately 600 students each year are transfer situations that result in eligibility petitions to NMAA each year. NMAA reviews these petitions on a case-by-case basis, and for adverse decisions, offers an appeal process. According to NMAA, approximately 20 students each year are denied eligibility to participate in a sport.

The current NMAA board is made up of 10 elected superintendents and three appointed members, including one superintendent, one representative of the New Mexico School Boards Association and the chair of the NMAA commission. including representation from Albuquerque, Chama Valley, Farmington, Fort Sumner, Gadsden, Hobbs, Las Cruces, Loving, Quemado, Santa Fe, and Santa Rosa. Analysis from NMAA notes the board is elected by NMAA members.

Given that NMAA likely serves every county in New Mexico, SB465 may be interpreted to require NMAA to establish at least 33 board seats, one for each county that participates in NMAA activities. The board may also be required to establish additional seats for larger counties; SB465 requires the membership to be proportional to the population of the counties served by the board. This requirement would also apply to other boards that regulate extracurricular activities in the state, which may include other organizations across New Mexico.

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

Provisions of SB465 may require NMAA to amend [Section 6](#) of the association's handbook to allow students to participate in athletic activities in cases of school transfers, participation in teams outside of school, participation in training camps, or participation in a high school sport by an eighth grade student.

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

- LESC Files
- New Mexico Athletics Association (NMAA)

TB/jkh