

MSHSAA Member Schools, Registered Officials and Other Educational Professional Associations,

Last week, you received a message and video update outlining legislation currently being considered in Jefferson City that could significantly change how student activities and programs are governed in Missouri. Thank you to those who have already engaged on this issue and helped raise awareness within your school communities.

Now, more than ever, it is important that lawmakers hear directly from Missouri schools that student activities and athletics are best governed by participating schools and not political appointees.

While using the [advocacy tool linked here](#) is the quickest way to share your concerns about this new legislation with your lawmakers, we have heard from many of you requesting clear, concise points that you can share if you speak directly with legislators, community leaders, or other stakeholders. Below are key messages you can use when discussing this legislation.

Key Points to Share with Lawmakers

MSHSAA is governed by Missouri schools.

More than 700 public, private and charter schools voluntarily participate in MSHSAA. Member schools set and vote on the rules and policies they follow through a democratic process.

MSHSAA is not a state agency and receives no direct state funding.

MSHSAA operates as a private, not-for-profit membership organization funded through event revenue, sponsorships and activity registration fees from member schools, which are frequently paid with proceeds from ticket sales.

Membership governance keeps decisions consistent and student-focused.

Student eligibility, transfer decisions and participation questions often involve complex and highly individualized circumstances. The current structure allows those decisions to be handled through consistent, membership-adopted rules rather than shifting them into political or legislative arenas.

MSHSAA supports constructive conversations about transparency and accountability.

MSHSAA remains committed to working with lawmakers to strengthen oversight and transparency while preserving school-driven governance that provides stability for students and communities.

If you would like additional background information on MSHSAA, we encourage you to review these resources:

- [MSHSAA Myth vs. Fact Sheet](#)
- [Who is MSHSAA?](#)

Lawmakers consistently tell us that direct communication from school leaders carries significant influence when they evaluate legislation affecting Missouri schools.

Your voice as a member school is critical at this moment. Decisions about Missouri student activities should continue to be made by the schools that serve those students—not political appointees.

Here is how you can help immediately.

1. [Click here](#) to **send a message to your state lawmakers** to let them know you don't support this legislative takeover of MSHSAA. (It only takes 10 seconds!)
2. **Encourage your colleagues to do the same**; forwarding this message on to their inboxes and asking them to also send messages to their lawmakers.
3. **Please also consider sharing this message with parents, booster organizations and other community supporters who value high school activities and athletics in your district.** Lawmakers must hear from their constituents immediately that there are concerns with this legislation.

Thank you for your continued leadership, your commitment to our students, and your partnership in protecting Missouri athletics and activities as we know them.

Sincerely,

Dr. Jennifer Rukstad
Executive Director
Missouri State High School Activities Association
