

CHAPTER 183

AN ACT concerning protective eyewear for children participating in sports and supplementing chapter 40 of Title 18A of the New Jersey Statutes.

BE IT ENACTED *by the Senate and General Assembly of the State of New Jersey:*

C.18A:40-41.8 Findings, declarations relative to protective eyewear for children participating in sports.

1. The Legislature finds and declares that:

a. Eye injuries are the leading cause of preventable blindness and visual impairment in children, and most injuries occurring in school-aged children are sports-related;

b. Every 16 minutes a child incurs a sports-related eye injury severe enough to require a visit to the emergency room;

c. According to Prevent Blindness America, 90% of all eye injuries can be avoided by the use of appropriate eye protection; and

d. It is necessary and prudent to educate parents and children about sports-related eye injuries in order to reduce the needless loss of sight that can occur during sports activities.

C.18A:40-41.9 Development of educational fact sheet providing information relative to sports-related eye injuries.

2. a. The Commissioner of Education shall develop within 120 days of the effective date of this act, an educational fact sheet that provides information about sports-related eye injuries. The educational fact sheet shall include, but need not be limited to:

(1) a list of the most common sports-related eye injuries and the recognition of the symptoms of those injuries;

(2) a recommendation that children seek treatment and advice from a licensed health care professional regarding the appropriate amount of time to delay the return to sports competition or practice after sustaining an eye injury;

(3) a recommendation that all children participating in school sports or recreational sports wear protective eyewear;

(4) information concerning the purchase of appropriate protective eyewear; and

(5) any other information the commissioner deems appropriate.

b. Each school district and nonpublic school shall distribute the educational fact sheet annually to the parents or guardians of the students.

3. This act shall take effect immediately.

Approved January 13, 2014.