

1 **NYSAC Standing Committee on Intergovernmental Affairs**
2 **2020 Legislative Conference**
3 **Resolution #3**

4 **Urging the Governor and State Legislature to Pass Legislation that Allows**
5 **School Districts to Permit Home-schooled Students to Participate in**
6 **District Interscholastic Sports**

7 **WHEREAS**, participation in athletics has the intrinsic value of increased physical and
8 mental health; and

9 **WHEREAS**, participation in athletics is one of the most effective ways for students in
10 the United States to develop leadership skills, self-discipline, initiative, and dedication;
11 and

12 **WHEREAS**, the communication and cooperation skills learned through athletic
13 experience play a key role in the contributions of athletes to the home, school, and
14 community; and

15 **WHEREAS**, the additional benefits of athletics participation, including social
16 interaction and teamwork, could be considered more vital for home-schooled students,
17 who often lack the opportunity to otherwise enjoy those benefits due to the nature of
18 their educational environment; and

19 **WHEREAS**, the current regulations of the New York State Public High School Athletics
20 Association (NYSPHSAA) prohibit participation in high school athletics by home-school
21 students; and

22 **WHEREAS**, those regulations run counter to the NYSPHSAA's stated objective to
23 encourage as many students as possible to participate in athletic games; and

24 **WHEREAS**, public schools in New York enjoy the benefits of funding through taxation,
25 which enables them to provide expensive athletic programming that home schooled
26 students are unable to fund independently; and

27 **WHEREAS**, the families of home-schooled children contribute to the funding of
28 public-school athletics programs at the same rate as other taxpayers.

29 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLEVED**, that the New York State Association of
30 Counties (NYSAC) urges the Governor and Legislature to pass legislation that would
31 allow school districts to permit home-schooled students to participate in district
32 interscholastic sports; and

33 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, any district opting to permit these student athletes to
34 participate must require them to be vaccinated as required by the State of New York;
35 and

1 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that copies of this resolution be sent to the counties of
2 New York State encouraging member counties to enact similar resolutions; and,

3 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that NYSAC shall forward copies of this resolution to
4 Governor Andrew M. Cuomo, the New York State Legislature, the New York State Public
5 High School Athletic Association, the New York State School Boards Association, and all
6 others deemed necessary and proper.