



**LOWER HUDSON EDUCATION COALITION**

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**MEMO IN OPPOSITION**

**A.706-A (Stirpe)**

Allows school districts to permit home-schooled students to participate in district interscholastic sports

The Lower Hudson Education Coalition (LHEC) opposes the aforementioned legislation which would authorize school districts to allow home-school students to participate in district interscholastic athletics. LHEC respects the rights of parents to elect not to utilize their school districts. However, we cannot support legislation that allows parents to selectively opt in to certain activities at such school districts.

The legislation would require that home school students meet the same standards of academic performance, attendance and behavior as district students. While this is a good intention, it will be very difficult for school districts to enforce. Allowing home school students to participate could also bar school district students who are following all the standards from participating in athletic teams.

LHEC recognizes that this bill is not a mandate and does allow districts to pursue this policy at the local level. This is appreciated, but could put undue pressure on school districts from members of the community to allow such a policy.

For all these reasons and more, LHEC strongly opposes the aforementioned legislation.