



# *The School Board of Broward County, Florida*

## RESOLUTION

No. 12-68

### **RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF CONCUSSION MANAGEMENT AND NEURO-COGNITIVE TESTING FOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT ATHLETES**

**WHEREAS**, a concussion is a disturbance in brain function that occurs following either a blow to the head, face, or neck or as a result of the violent shaking of the head or body; and

**WHEREAS**, a concussion resulting from playing in interscholastic sports may result in the rapid onset of neurological impairment and acute clinical symptoms such as chronic headache, fatigue, mental sluggishness, sleep difficulties, personality changes (e.g. increased irritability), sensitivity to light or noise, dizziness, and coordination difficulties as well as deficits in short term memory, concentration, problem solving, and general academic functioning that reflect a functional neurological disturbance; and

**WHEREAS**, the incidence of concussion leaves student-athletes vulnerable to conditions such as Second Impact Syndrome, which can result in death or permanent disability, or Post-Concussion Syndrome, which involves thinking, behavioral, and emotional difficulties that can last up to weeks, months, or even years after injury to the brain, should a student-athlete sustain a second concussion prior to the complete resolution of the primary injury; and

**WHEREAS**, at the forefront of proper concussion management is the implementation of baseline and post-injury neurocognitive testing, considered by many to be a "standard practice" tool for the proper management of concussive injuries; and

**WHEREAS**, neurocognitive tests which are brief, computer-administered, neurocognitive screening devices developed by experts in the field of sport-related concussion, scientifically validated to measure the effects of concussive injuries, and designed to help clinicians evaluate an athlete's recovery following concussion by assessing aspects of an athlete's cognitive functioning such as working memory, sustained and selective attention, and reaction time, can be used to help objectively evaluate a concussed athlete's post injury condition and track their recovery for a safe return to play and thereby help to prevent or minimize the cumulative effects of concussion; and

**WHEREAS**, the School Board of Broward County encourages the participation of all Broward County Public School student-athletes in baseline neurocognitive testing procedures free of charge through the 2013-14 school year through several community-based concussion initiatives currently in place; and

**WHEREAS**, beginning with spring football in 2012, all student-athletes participating in interscholastic sports shall be required as a participating condition to take a baseline neurocognitive test; and

**WHEREAS**, the school system's sports medicine partners, Broward Health, Memorial Healthcare System, and Nova Southeastern University, support neurocognitive testing and have pledged to assist in the implementation of a baseline testing program to all student-athletes where each student-athlete is given a baseline neurocognitive test to be used if a concussion is suspected during subsequent practices or competitions, so that follow-up tests may be administered to help diagnose and effectively manage a concussive injury; and

**WHEREAS**, an appropriate health care professional as defined by the Florida High School Athletic Association shall review all neurocognitive testing data, evaluate suspected concussed student-athletes, determine when injured student-athletes should return to their regular academic schedule, participate in sport-specific drills, and be fully cleared to return to practice and competition; and

**WHEREAS**, the School Board of Broward County supports a comprehensive education campaign to increase awareness about the dangers of concussions including prevention, symptoms and treatment that will be developed through the assistance of BECON, booster clubs, parent organizations, and community organizations such as the Daniel Brett Foundation; and

**WHEREAS**, the Brain Injury Association of America has dedicated March of 2012, National Brain Injury Month. The focus of National Brain Injury Month is to raise awareness about traumatic brain injuries and 2012's specific focus is on concussions.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that every high school within the jurisdiction of The School Board of Broward County, Florida shall support awareness of concussion management.

Given at Fort Lauderdale, Florida, this 20th day of March 2012.

**THE SCHOOL BOARD OF BROWARD COUNTY, FLORIDA**

**BY:** \_\_\_\_\_  
Ann Murray, Chair

**ATTEST:** \_\_\_\_\_  
Robert W. Runcie, Superintendent of Schools