



## Missouri House of Representatives

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### **Rep. Dirk Deaton Celebrates Sponsored Legislation Signed into Law**

**JEFFERSON CITY, Mo.** – State Representative Dirk Deaton today praised Governor Kehoe’s signing of SB 63, legislation he handled in the House and had sponsored in previous legislative sessions to uphold parental rights and ensure educational opportunities for students learning outside of traditional public schools.

“This bill is a win for Missouri families,” said Rep. Deaton (R). “It guarantees that home-schooled students have the opportunity to participate in public school extracurricular activities, without being forced to enroll in classes that don’t align with their educational path.”

The new law requires school districts and charter schools to allow eligible students receiving instruction in family-paced education (FPE), home school, or full-time virtual settings to try out for and participate in activities like athletics, fine arts, and career organizations. Students must still meet district residency and conduct requirements and comply with relevant team or club standards.

“Every child deserves a fair shot to engage in their community through sports, music, and more, regardless of how they learn,” Deaton said. “This law helps level the playing field just as has been done already in many states across the nation.”

The legislation also streamlines the process for parents transitioning their children out of public school, requiring schools to promptly remove students from their rolls upon receiving a written request. This provision protects families from bureaucratic delays as they pursue alternative education models.

“As policymakers, it’s our responsibility to empower parents and eliminate unnecessary barriers,” Deaton added. “This bill reaffirms our commitment to educational freedom and equal opportunity.”

The bill takes effect August 28<sup>th</sup> and aligns with Rep. Deaton’s continued efforts to support school choice and parental rights in education.



*Rep. Representative Dirk Deaton represents McDonald and Newton counties (District 159) in the Missouri House of Representatives. He was elected to his first two-year term in November 2018 and re-elected in 2020 and 2022. For more information, please contact Rep. Deaton by email at [Dirk.Deaton@house.mo.gov](mailto:Dirk.Deaton@house.mo.gov).*

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