

## NEW LAW: Regarding Sports-Related Head Injury and Concussions

In order to promote the safety and well being of young athletes in Massachusetts, Governor Patrick recently signed a law requiring all public schools and other schools that are members of the Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association (MIAA) to participate in a mandatory sports head injury and concussion awareness program beginning with the 2010-11 school year. The law requires that parents or legal guardians of children who participate in any extracurricular activity, coaches, athletic directors, school nurses and physicians and others learn about the consequences of head injuries and concussions through training programs and written materials. The Department of Public Health also recommends that student athletes themselves participate in such a course or receive printed materials.

The Hampshire Regional School District is developing a program that will address the requirements of the new law and a training program for student athletes and their parents or guardians is being planned for spring 2011.

If you have any questions, please contact Mary Phelan, RN, Health Coordinator (527-7200 or [mphelan@hr-k12.org](mailto:mphelan@hr-k12.org)) or Ann Trytko, Athletic Director (527-7680 or [atrytko@hr-k12.org](mailto:atrytko@hr-k12.org)).

More information about the law can be found at:  
[www.mass.gov/legis/laws/seslaw10/sl100166.htm](http://www.mass.gov/legis/laws/seslaw10/sl100166.htm).

Two free-on-line courses that are approved by the MA Department of Public Health are:

<http://www.cdc.gov/concussion/HeadsUp/on-linetraining.html>

<http://www.nfhslearn.com/electiveDetail.aspx?courseID=15000>