



# JESSAMINE COUNTY SCHOOLS

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October 2, 2013

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Julian Tackett, Commissioner  
KHSAA  
2280 Executive Drive  
Lexington, KY 40505

Commissioner Tackett:

East Jessamine and West Jessamine High Schools would like to request a transfer from the 11<sup>th</sup> Region to the 12<sup>th</sup> Region in the sports of boys' and girls' tennis. Our current alignment is different from the other sports in our schools that participate in a 16-region format, and this poses a significant travel hardship to our schools and takes away from our natural rivalries created by other realignments conducted in previous years.

Participating in the 11<sup>th</sup> Region poses a travel hardship to our tennis teams throughout the season, especially with the moving of the tennis season earlier in March, putting more matches earlier when there is less daylight. Our district requires that we use bus transport to all matches out of our district, so we are waiting until at least 4:30 most days to get a bus for matches. When we then have to travel to Lexington, Georgetown, or Richmond for our matches and compete with rush hour traffic, in many cases we are not getting to schools such as Bryan Station, Scott County, and Madison Central until at least 5:30, leaving us very little daylight to complete the matches. Because of that, we are limited in our early season scheduling. If we are traveling south to Garrard County, Boyle County, or Danville, we would be at those schools at least 30 minutes earlier, allowing us to have more time to complete matches. This is very important in the consideration of matches for region and state seeding. In addition, the mileage distance from our schools to towns like Lancaster and Danville is less than our travel to Georgetown and Richmond, so our schools would be able to save money on bus transportation by driving less miles for our matches. The move to the 12<sup>th</sup> Region would facilitate a logical move for both of our high schools to cut down on travel time and costs and allow us to complete more matches earlier in the season.

In each of our other sports that are divided into 16 regions instead of classes, our high schools participate in the 12<sup>th</sup> Region. From the realignment of other sports, our high schools have developed natural rivalries with other schools in the 12<sup>th</sup> Region. A move to the 12<sup>th</sup> Region would allow our tennis programs to build on those natural rivalries we already have in other sports.

In addition to the impact on our travel, many of the Middle schools in the 12<sup>th</sup> Region, West Jessamine and East Jessamine included, now belong to a "conference" and members of that conference have been discussing the possible creation of a fall middle school tennis program. We believe that would help grow the sport of tennis in our area. Being a more rural region, the opportunities for tennis play are limited, and this would provide more opportunities in our immediate area to grow tennis programs, and we hope to expand those through this move. With no feeder program in place through the elementary and middle schools in Jessamine County at this point, this would be a remarkable step to expanding tennis in Jessamine County, and this would create even deeper ties to the 12<sup>th</sup> Region in tennis.

Sincerely,

Kathy T. Fields  
Superintendent