



# Kentucky High School Athletic Association

2280 Executive Drive ° Lexington, KY 40505 ° www.khsaa.org ° (859)299-5472 (859)293-5999 (fax)

MEMO

TO: Julian Tackett, Commissioner

FROM: Sarah Bridenbaugh, Assistant Commissioner

DATE: September 9, 2019

RE: Financial Aid Report

---

At your direction, I have completed the annual financial aid reports from the member schools for the 2018-2019 academic year. We have 100% compliance from our member schools in submitting the survey.

By our Corrective Action plan that we submitted during the 2015-2016 school year, we were once again ahead of the projected schedule. However, I want to suggest to move the timing of this survey. Due to the financial information needed to complete this survey, my suggestion is to move this survey into the fall for the previous school year. This will allow for the financial school year to be complete before we send the survey and will help with gathering more accurate data. My suggestion for the 2019-2020 survey and beyond is:

- Send a PDF version of the survey out to the schools on September 1<sup>st</sup> so that schools may begin to gather the information necessary for this report.
- Send the online report link to the schools on September 15<sup>th</sup>, with a due date for completion of October 1<sup>st</sup>.
- After October 1<sup>st</sup>, contact any school showing as not completed, to offer assistance in getting that report finished.
- By October 15<sup>th</sup>, report to the Commissioner of any school that has not complied.
- Investigations will be assigned by the Commissioner

For the 2018-19 school year, I have compiled a report with the findings from the Financial Aid Survey. You will find attached to this memo the findings of the survey and the 19 red flags found from the original reports. All 19 schools were contacted about their survey to ensure compliance and to address the red flags. Many of the 19 were just errors in filling out the report.

After initial contact with schools, it was determined that four (4) schools needed additional follow-up and review. Below is a summary of my findings:

- Covington Latin: On survey, school did not submit the type of test they use for merit aid. After follow-up, it was determined that since Covington Latin is a 7-12 school, they are giving the 7<sup>th</sup>-grade version (Educational Development Series, STS Series 7) of the High School Placement Test. This test is also created by the Scholastic Testing Service and is given on specific testing dates as required within the Bylaw. This merit aid never exceeds the 25% limit as defined in Bylaw 11, and a student would never receive more than 8% tuition reduction for receiving this merit aid. After initial conversations and with the amount of turnover in administration at this school, I suggest that Covington Latin be mentored throughout the 2019-2020 school year for compliance with Bylaw 11.
- Henderson County: Upon review of the submitted survey, Henderson County noted that they waive fees for Foreign Exchange students. After contact with the Athletic Director Jeff Coursey, it was determined that they are still charged the technology fee and instructional fee that all students are charged to attend. KHSAA has provided Henderson County further details about Bylaw 7-8 students as well as how to handle within Bylaw 11.

- Louisville Collegiate: In the survey, schools are asked to submit their financial aid policies. In that Financial Assistance Policy, it states: Students receiving financial assistance awards of 75% or more of published tuition must meet “exceptional” criteria as defined by academic promise, outstanding character, and citizenship, special talents in one or more area of academics, art, and athletics. I advised the school to consider rewording their policy not to seem that there were specific scholarships for athletes. The school’s administration has worked with the KHSAA office to ensure their understanding of Bylaw 11 and to ensure compliance of their student-athletes.
- Red Bird Christian: Red Bird Christian marked that all aid was not under the direct supervision of the school or its governing board. The Athletic Director, Tonya Asher, is new at the school but has worked with us in previous years on their financial aid policy. She confirmed that it was an error submitted by the previous Athletic Director, that all financial aid is under the direct supervision of the school. They also mentioned that 28 student-athletes were unable to meet the financial obligations of the school. After a follow-up with Ms. Asher, it was determined that only 11 did not meet their financial obligations by the conclusion of the school year, but all have signed a promissory note to pay the balance. I suggest that Red Bird will be mentored throughout the 2019-2020 school year for compliance.

I also wanted to provide an update from the 2016-2017 Financial Aid report, at the recommendation from the KHSAA office:

- Riverside Christian: The principal confirmed they were finalizing policies for school financial aid as we requested last year. Principal and I have worked together to ensure compliance of all varsity athletes competing for 2018-19, and they will send final policy draft for 2019-2020.

After a complete review, we also sent a reminder notice to all member schools outlining impermissible aid per Bylaw 11. I recommend accepting the reports from the member schools with Red Bird Christian and Covington Latin to be mentored throughout the 2019-20 school year.