

MONROE COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

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Dr. Michael Carter, Chairman
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Dear Mr. Tackett and KHSAA Board of Directors,

In 2005, Monroe County made the decision to move from 16th district competition to the 15th district in basketball, baseball, volleyball, golf, and softball. Few, if any, realized the impact it would have on our small school moving forward. Without the ability to foresee the future, it was impossible to see the negative effects this would have on our school district, community, and student-athletes.

Monroe County, since consolidation in 1985, had competed in the 16th district with Clinton, Cumberland, and Metcalfe Counties in basketball and baseball (and long before consolidation when it was Gamaliel High and Tompkinsville High). When softball became a KHSAA sanctioned sport in 1995, Monroe County again competed in the 16th district. In 2005, the decision was made to move Monroe County to the 15th district away from our decades long rivalries. All teams continued to compete with Monroe County as much as possible and still do to this day.

In the past 16 years, Monroe County has witnessed a major decline in sport participation. There hasn't been much success for Monroe County in the 15th district and that has resulted in decreased participation. While we all understand success isn't given, moving to the 15th district was not a wise decision for Monroe County in regard to athletics. For example, Monroe County is the smallest school in the 15th district (in comparison, Barren County is a 6A school in football, Allen Co-Scottsville is a 4A school in football, and Glasgow is a 3A school in football). In the 16th district, if Monroe County were back in the old district, Clinton is a 2A football school, Cumberland does not have football, and Metcalfe is a 2A football school. Monroe County is also a 2A football school.

In more detail, Monroe County baseball has been to the regional baseball tournament one time after a district runner-up finish in 2018 since moving to the 15th district in 2005. Monroe County has won multiple All "A" regional championships since being moved to the 15th district, but has failed to advance in KHSAA postseason play. Monroe County softball has NEVER been to the regional tournament since moving to 15th district competition. In basketball, boys and girls have a combined five district championships in 32 seasons (16 years of competition for the boys and 16 years of competition for the girls). Since the move to the 15th district, Monroe County has remained a competitor with 16th district teams as evident by the success in the All "A" Classic, which has each 16th district team competing on an annual basis.

Anyone in education or business understands finances play a major role in decisions. Small towns have very limited tax bases, which limits funding for our specific school district. Being in the 15th district has cost our school a substantial amount of money for our programs. Without knowing a specific number, a \$100,000+ amount would be a fair estimate based on the success our school had in the 16th district from the 16 years prior to the move to the 15th district. That kind of money is a difference maker for our small school.

While most of our small town would love to return to the 16th district for the small-town rivalries, the chance to compete on a fair level is also very compelling. Our student-athletes deserve a fair opportunity for success and it is our job to advocate for them. We sincerely appreciate your consideration in this matter.

Please accept this letter as a formal request to move the Monroe County School District back to 16th district competition. We sincerely appreciate your consideration in this matter.



Amy Thompson, Superintendent
Monroe County Schools