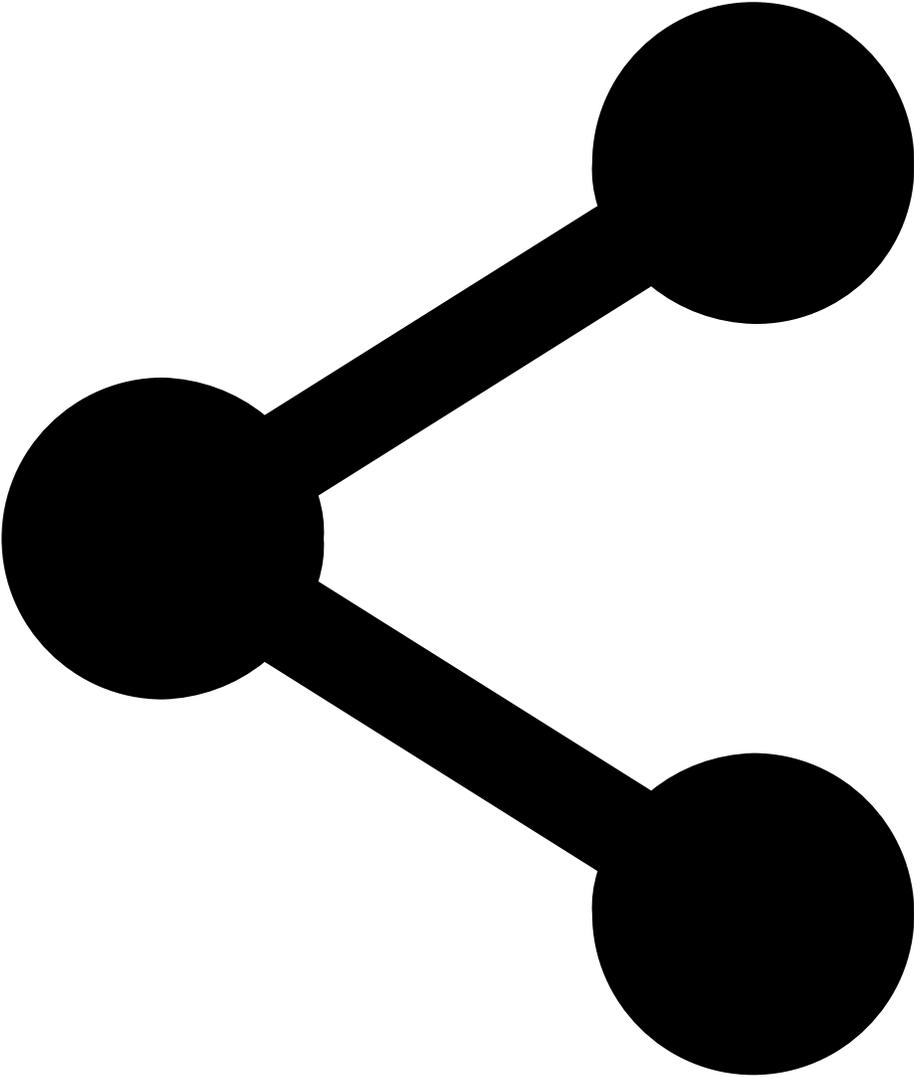
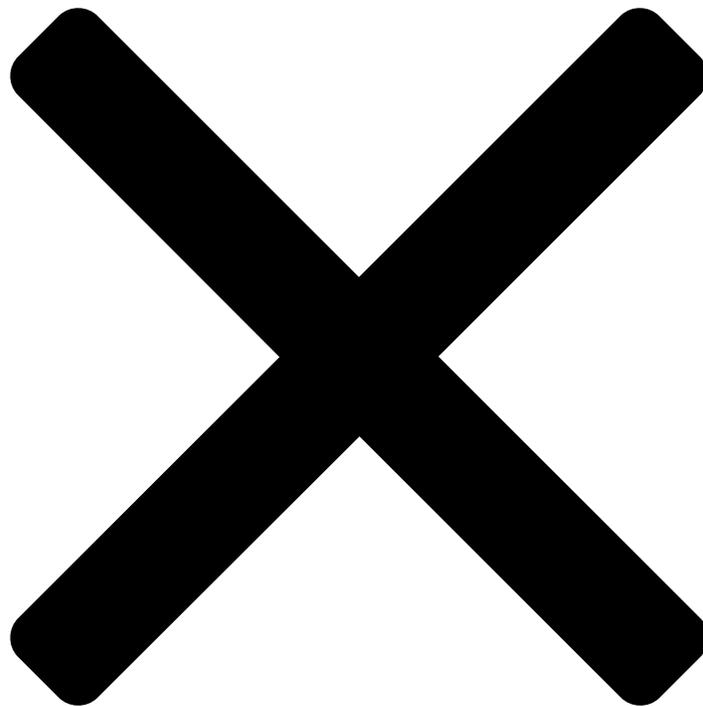


# **Lawmaker argues student-athlete transfer rules disadvantage lower-income, rural families**

OKLAHOMA CITY, Okla. (KOKH) —

Oklahoma House Rep. Ty Burns (R-Pawnee) has initiated a study of the Oklahoma Secondary School Activities Association concerning school transfer policies.





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*State law stipulates that students can transfer to any school regardless of where they live. However, student-athletes have to wait a year*

*before playing. (KOKH)*

Currently, state law stipulates that students can transfer to any school regardless of where they live. However, student-athletes have to wait a year before playing, unless his or her family moves into the new district.

According to Oklahoma House Rep. Trish Ranson (D-Stillwater), "This is a unintended consequence of the open transfer bill that passed a couple of years ago."

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In her view, the rules still need some further work to ensure fairness.

She argued that lawmakers, voters, and school districts need to further discuss "how we go forward when we have a non-geographical boundary... in our regular education, how do we go forward to make sure that it's fair for all athletes."

Rick Cobb, superintendent of the Mid-Del School District, described that the current framework has created more red tape for schools in his district.

He shared that, "We've always been very receptive to transfer students in Mid-Del. Just as we've never really tried to block students who wanted to leave Mid-Del and go to another district."

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According to the school administrator, the transfer process could be smoother. "We have found this process to be a little more cumbersome

than what we were doing before. So that's a challenge for us."

Burns wants to get rid of the in-district home ownership requirement for sports eligibility. He says the move would put families on a more even playing field, as some can move more easily than others.

He said in a statement that, "The concern is the potential harm this could cause our student athletes who for any number of reasons might wish to transfer schools."

Attorney Kevin Sain is also weighing in, arguing "The OSSAA is failing families and children in Oklahoma."

The OSSAA did not respond to a request for comment as of the publishing of this article.

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