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LESLIE COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

BRETT WILSON, SUPERINTENDENT



P. O. BOX 949 · HYDEN, KENTUCKY 41749 · PHONE: (606) 672-2397 · FAX (606) 672-4224

February 15, 2023

Dear Commissioner Tackett and KHSAA Board of Control Members:

Thank you for allowing our school district to appeal the decision of our football programs district placement. As most of you know, our community has been severely impacted by the collapse of the coal industry over the past few years. Significant jobs have been lost, which in turn has had a negative impact on many of our students here in Leslie County. I fear that the current district and regional competition sites will place an additional financial burden on many of our families. The extra cost of gas, food, lodging etc. will prevent some of our students from participating in our football program. For those that do participate, we will have some families who simply will not be able to afford the trips to watch their child play.

The following is a snapshot of our student demographics/accomplishments at Leslie County High School:

- Academically, our high school is ranked in the top ten in the state, according to the latest KDE assessment scores.
- Our students compete at a high level in athletics; winning KHSAA Regional/District championships in team and individual competitions over the last few years.
- 69% of our students at LCHS are direct certified by the state to receive free lunch and breakfast, this means these students automatically qualify to receive a free lunch/breakfast, even without filling out a free lunch form. (KDE)
- Per capita income for Leslie County - \$17,987 (US Census)
- 30% of our children live in food insecure households (KIDS count data 2020)
- 65% of our children live in low-income families (200% below poverty level) (KIDS count data 2020)
- Our current student enrollment stands at approximately 465 (9-12), and many of these students are multi-sport athletes.

As you can see, our district is considered a high poverty area. However, our students compete at high levels academically and athletically. It is my responsibility as superintendent to remove any barriers that I feel may impede their ability to excel in academics or athletics. I absolutely believe this current district placement for our football program will be a barrier for several of our students.

I have also asked our Athletic Director, Transportation Director and DPP to write letters with data to share with each of you supporting our decision to appeal.

Thank you for your time, and more importantly, thank you for what each of you do for our kids in Kentucky!

Sincerely,

Brett Wilson,
Superintendent
Leslie County Public Schools

LESLIE COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL

"ALL STUDENTS CAN LEARN BASED ON WHAT WE DO."



Merlene Lewis, Principal
Mark Collett, Asst. Principal

25 Eagle Lane

Hyden, KY

41749

Dear KHSAA Board on Control,

The administrative team at Leslie County High School is writing in regards to the recent re-districting of the football teams in Kentucky. Upon research, we have found that being involved in District 7 would geographically, financially, and practically be more sensible than the current placement. This includes district play and eventual region play.

For a school our size and with the financial resources available to our school, we as a team, must derive ways to cost effectively run our programs and our school as a whole.

We are including supporting evidence from various sections of our Central Office and school to support our findings and ultimately the decision we are seeking, to be placed in District 7.

From an academic standpoint, our students will be forced to leave school before the 3:15pm dismissal on most days for district competition and for region play as the current realignment proposal stands today. The educational loss on these days will add up, as we value bell to bell instruction.

Thank you for your time and consideration pertaining to this matter.

Respectfully,

Mark Collett, Vice Principal/Athletic Director

Possible travel expenditures for Region with current alignment:

-If Beechwood

---Drivers \$460

---Fuel \$1440 (KDE recommends \$4 per mile for fuel along with wear and tear

---Hotel (60 people) \$2400 based on estimate of \$130 per night for rooms in that area

---Meals \$2400 (60 people) 4 meals at \$10 per person

---TOTAL \$6700 (FOOTBALL)

-For Cheerleading----TOTAL \$1890

-For band same as above-

Grand total---\$10400

Past 2 years Football School Budgets

2021-2022 Football Budget \$7788.48

2022-2023 Football Budget \$8121

■ District 5
Beechwood-396,
Bracken-340,
Carroll Co-384,
Gallatin Co-396,
Owen Co-344,
Walton Co-364

■ District 6
Breathitt-98,
Somerset-164,
Danville 210

■ District 7
Martin-182,
Prestonsburg-134,
Knott Central-80,
Floyd Central-106

■ District 8
Betsy Lane-146,
East Ridge-212,
Pike Co Central-168,
Shelby Valley-190,

■ Leslie Co

Leslie County Board of Education Transportation Department

02/08/2023

144 Autumn Lane
Hyden, KY
41749


Dear KHSAA Board Members:

I'm writing to request LCHS football be placed in district 7 with Prestonsburg, Knott County, Martin County and Floyd Central. The new proposed District would create a financial hardship on our transportation budget as well making it difficult to get enough drivers for longer away games.

We, like many districts, have a shortage of bus drivers. This already causes some stress on football game nights. With the new proposed district and region, we would have more difficulty trying to get drivers for the football busses, cheerleaders and still have enough drivers to do regular evening bus routes. Our current numbers are 25 drivers for 25 routes with only 2 substitute drivers to cover our district.

Thank you for your consideration on this matter.

Sincerely,



Jerry Don Combs Transportation Director