

KHSAA INFORMATIONAL RESPONSE

<https://apps.legislature.ky.gov/record/25rs/HB292.html>

https://apps.legislature.ky.gov/recorddocuments/bill/25RS/hb292/orig_bill.pdf

- This proposal, in its plain form, allows a first-time transferring student who has been enrolled in grade nine and then played varsity to be eligible regardless of the reason for transfer. The drafted proposal further defers any other transfer to the Association's existing rule but potentially does not address many very specific situations to ensure there are duplicities or contradictions based on its wording. We remain available to work through or discuss any other issues where our rules can be improved.
- We are thankful that parents already have choices in this state and are not restricted on ninth-grade enrollment, even if they have previously participated, and continue to remind all of that option.
- The Association staff and Board of Control have been in review of its own rules for more than a year, with plans on taking proposed changes before the membership at the fall 2025 Delegate Assembly meeting, where all member schools have a vote and a voice. We continue to feel that basic eligibility rules, particularly for those who have already participated, work best when they are developed in a spirit of cooperation with all stakeholders.

Without additional guardrails and stipulations on "free transfers", such as:

- grade-level restrictions on the option,
- definitions and situations around the first transfer,
- same-season athletic transfer issues for those getting the exception that is a deeply expressed concern to our member schools, and
- other concerns around athletic advantage provisions that have been upheld in various jurisdictions, this could be problematic.

This current version as proposed could lead to:

- a "rich get even richer" opportunity for interscholastic sports, further tipping the scales of equity as has been the case in neighboring states with lessened restrictions;
- a possible replication of the chaos that currently exists at the collegiate level, which many coaches already actively seek change to lessen; and
- a widening of any perceived or real advantage that member schools have over their fellow members in areas with fewer options, including more ability to select their students or draw from larger areas, whether they be public, non-public, magnet or another choice program, particularly in our more populated areas.

We look forward to continued interaction, as we have for many years, with the members of both houses of the legislature on this and other issues, as well as our member schools. We also look forward to continued work with our own Board of Control, each selected to represent individuals from throughout the entire Commonwealth, as they try to both modernize any perceived issues with the current rule and maintain as much balance as possible among our membership.