

Commonwealth of Kentucky

AARON REED
STATE SENATOR
OFFICE (502) 564-8100
AARON.REED@KYLEGISLATURE.GOV



7TH SENATE DISTRICT

STATE CAPITAL ANNEX
CAPITAL ANNEX ROOM 209
702 CAPITAL AVENUE
FRANKFORT, KENTUCKY 40601

September 23, 2025

Julian Tackett, Commissioner
2280 Executive Drive
Lexington, KY 40505

RE: Concerns Regarding Proposed District Realignment and the Placement of Martha Layne Collins High School

Mr. Tackett:

I am writing to you regarding the proposed district realignment that would remove Martha Layne Collins High School from the 30th District and place it in the 29th District. As the state senator representing Shelby County, and in close consultation with Superintendent Josh Matthews and local education leaders, I want to share strong concerns about this proposal and its impact on students, families, and our community.

At present, the 30th District consists of five teams. With the entry of Cornerstone Christian Academy, that number would increase to six. Based on the experience of our coaches and administrators, a six-team district presents no greater scheduling or seeding difficulties than the current five-team structure. Separating Shelby County High School and Collins High School into different districts would create unnecessary hardships with little tangible benefit.

Key Concerns:

1. **Travel and Logistics:** Moving Collins High School to the 29th District would require Shelby County teams to compete with Oldham County schools while schools like Woodford County would be forced to travel through Franklin County to remain in the 30th. This arrangement increases travel costs, lengthens student travel times, and negatively impacts student well-being, particularly on school nights.
2. **Community Engagement:** Keeping both Shelby County high schools together in the same district with Cornerstone Christian is a more logical solution. All three schools are located in the same community, which promotes stronger attendance, greater local support, and healthier community engagement.
3. **Impact on Multiple Sports:** Cornerstone currently participates in only three sports at the 8th Region level, yet their entry is prompting proposed adjustments that affect four additional sports (baseball, softball, girls' soccer, and boys' soccer) in which Cornerstone does not compete. This disproportionately disrupts existing programs compared to the scope of Cornerstone's actual participation.
4. **Stability and Commitment:** There is no guarantee that Cornerstone will remain long-term within the Kentucky High School Athletic Association (KHSAA) competition. If they choose to withdraw after realignment occurs, the unnecessary upheaval to districts will already have taken place, leaving schools and students to deal with the consequences. It would be prudent to allow Cornerstone to establish itself fully and demonstrate staying power before altering district structures.
5. **Alternative Path:** The open slot for additional teams in the 29th District makes it the most natural home for Cornerstone. Oldham County schools have already expressed their willingness to welcome Cornerstone into that district, making this option the least disruptive and most practical.

Mr. Julian Tackett, Commissioner

Page Two

September 23, 2025

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the KHSAA Board of Control to reconsider the proposed realignment that separates Shelby County's two high schools. It is not in the best interests of our students, families, or communities. A better solution is to keep both Collins and Shelby County High Schools together in the 30th District while either temporarily accommodating Cornerstone within that district or assigning them to the open slot in the 29th District.

Thank you for your time and careful consideration of this important matter. I trust the Board will prioritize the needs of Kentucky's student-athletes and ensure that any district changes strengthen rather than weaken our local communities.

I look forward to your thoughts on the letter.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Aaron Reed", written in a cursive style.

Aaron Reed
State Senator
District 7

AR/lc