



January 7, 2026

Kentucky Department of Education  
District Facilities Branch  
300 Sower Boulevard  
Frankfort, KY 40601

Re: Request for Emergency BG-1 Declaration –  
Hopkins County Central High School & Madisonville North Hopkins High School

Dear District Facilities Branch Review Committee,

On behalf of Hopkins County Schools, we respectfully request that the Kentucky Department of Education, District Facilities Branch, approve an Emergency BG-1 declaration to allow immediate corrective action at Hopkins County Central High School and Madisonville North Hopkins High School. The proposed projects are necessary to address significant safety hazards, infrastructure failures, and accessibility deficiencies within the track and field and associated spectator areas at both campuses.

### **Basis for Emergency Declaration**

The following conditions have been identified and documented at both facilities and represent immediate risks to student safety, public welfare, and ADA compliance:

#### **1. Track and Field Surface Failure Due to Erosion and Settlement**

The existing track and field systems exhibit substantial surface deterioration caused by underlying erosion and soil settlement. These conditions have resulted in uneven surfaces, depressions, and cracking that pose clear trip-and-fall hazards for student-athletes, physical education classes, and community users. The severity of the settlement cannot be mitigated through routine maintenance or spot repairs and requires full replacement of the track surface and supporting subsystems.

#### **2. Subsurface Storm Drainage Failures**

Investigation has revealed inadequate and failing subsurface storm drainage infrastructure beneath and adjacent to the track and field areas. Poor drainage has accelerated erosion, contributed to ongoing settlement, and caused water ponding that further degrades the athletic surfaces. Continued use without corrective action will result in progressive structural failure and increased safety risks.

Sherman Carter Barnhart Architects  
144 Turner Commons Way, Suite 110  
Lexington, KY 40508

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### **3. ADA Accessibility Deficiencies to Spectator Areas**

The existing spectator seating and circulation routes do not meet current ADA accessibility standards, particularly for visitor seating and accessible routes to and within spectator areas. These deficiencies limit equitable access for students, families, and community members with disabilities and place the District at risk of non-compliance with federal accessibility requirements. Corrective action is required to provide accessible seating, compliant routes, and appropriate accommodations.

#### **Necessity for Immediate Action**

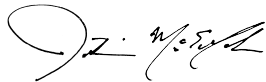
Due to the combination of life-safety hazards, infrastructure failure, and ADA non-compliance, delaying corrective work until the standard BG-1 cycle would expose students and the public to unacceptable risk and potentially result in further deterioration and increased costs. An Emergency BG-1 declaration is therefore necessary to allow the District to proceed promptly with design and construction to restore safe, functional, and accessible athletic facilities.

Hopkins County Schools is committed to coordinating closely with KDE staff throughout the process and will provide all required documentation, cost data, and supporting reports as requested.

We appreciate the District Facilities Branch's consideration of this request and respectfully ask for approval of the Emergency BG-1 so that these critical safety and accessibility issues may be addressed without delay.

Please do not hesitate to contact us should additional information be required.

Sincerely,

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

Justin McElfresh  
Principal