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3/24/26

Dear Commissioner Tackett,

I am writing to you today as the Superintendent of Lawrence County Schools to formally express my opposition to a recent request by Floyd County Schools to realign the 58th District, and move Lawrence County High School.

Lawrence County High School has been a proud member of the 58th District since the 2017-18 school year. Over the years, our district's single high school has shown great flexibility. We moved from the 15th Region to the 16th in the 1970s, and then back to the 15th in the early 2000s. Since then, we have moved between the 57th, 60th, and now the 58th Districts. We have always made these moves willingly. However, our district is tired of being the one constantly moved around. It often feels as though Lawrence County and its student-athletes are the ones no one wants to keep, and we value the stability and rivalries we have built in our current home.

The reason given for this realignment request is the travel distance for students, specifically the drive from Floyd Central to Lawrence County. To address this fairly, our athletic officials reviewed Floyd Central's travel to away games since the 2017-18 season. We looked at the average travel distance for all "optional" away games—non-district, non-postseason matchups—where schools choose their own travel.

For reference, the distance used from Floyd Central to Lawrence County is 55.11 miles. Our data shows that in almost every sport, Floyd Central has consistently chosen to travel further than the distance to our school for optional away games:

Sport	FC Avg. Optional Travel (Since 17-18)	Difference vs. Lawrence Co. (55.11)
Volleyball	61.54 miles	+ 6.43 miles
Baseball	58.83 miles	+ 3.72 miles

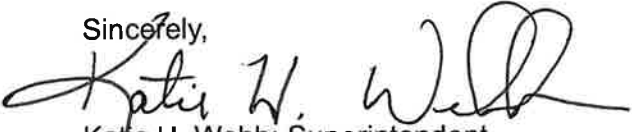
Boys Basketball	57.82 miles	+ 2.71 miles
Girls Basketball	52.70 miles	- 2.41 miles
Softball	41.81 miles	- 13.30 miles

As the data shows, in four out of the five district sports, Floyd Central's average travel for optional games is higher than or nearly identical to the distance to Lawrence County. I have attached a detailed spreadsheet and summary for your review. In most cases, if you remove the COVID-affected years, average travel distances would actually increase further.

Furthermore, the travel burden falls to a greater extent on Lawrence County when it comes to district play. Each Floyd County school travels to us only once per sport, per year. Lawrence County High School, however, must travel to Floyd County three times in order to play each of their schools. Additionally, a Floyd County school hosts the district tournament three out of every four years. We have accepted this as part of our commitment to the 58th District.

Despite Lawrence County doing the heavier lifting regarding mileage, we are not the ones requesting a move, and are opposed to it. We believe the 58th District is working well as it is and do not wish to be moved again based on a reason that data does not support. Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,



Katie H. Webb; Superintendent
Lawrence County Schools

Cc: Tonya Williams, Floyd County Superintendent
Dr. Robbie Fletcher, KDE Commissioner
Chris Meadow, Magoffin County Superintendent