

Pull Down to Select School Garrard County High School

Name of Administrator (Principal/AD) Submitting this information Mark Scenters

Position of Administrator Designated Representative / Athletic Director

Email Address mark.scenters@garrard.kyschools.us

Contact Phone: 859-661-0108

Withdrawal from district competition

Does this school desire to withdraw from postseason competition for the period of 2027 and 2028? No

Other General Commentary Including any geographic placement suggestions

Please mention any other desired comments on behalf of your school:

Dear KHSAA Board of Control,
Garrard County High School (GCHS) formally submits this appeal requesting the reconsideration and reclassification of our football program from the recently assigned Class 4A to Class 3A for the upcoming alignment cycle. We believe a deeper analysis of our current position within Class 4A, coupled with critical projected enrollment changes, warrants this adjustment to ensure competitive fairness.

Enrollment Disparity Within Class 4A
GCHS currently ranks as the third smallest school assigned to the 4A classification based on the official enrollment figures used for this cycle. The two schools smaller than GCHS include a private institution whose enrollment is artificially elevated by the KHSAA's classification multiplier, meaning GCHS possesses one of the lowest organic enrollments in the entire class. This placement immediately puts GCHS at a significant resource and personnel disadvantage against the vast majority of our 4A competitors, whose median enrollment figures are substantially higher. Our current structure and size align far more closely with the typical competitive profile of a Class 3A school.

Critical Projected Enrollment Decline
The most compelling reason for reclassification lies in the severe projected decline in student enrollment that GCHS is facing over the two-year alignment period. While classification is based on historical data, we respectfully urge the Board to consider forward-looking demographic realities that will critically

impact our ability to field competitive teams in Class 4A. The Garrard County High School projects a total population loss of nearly 200 students over the next two school years (2026/2027 and 2027/2028), directly leading up to the initial year of the new 2 year alignment being the 2027 Season.. This general decline is reflected acutely in the male enrollment figures, which form the basis for football classification:

School Year

Projected Decrease in Male Enrollment

Cumulative Projected Male Enrollment Loss

2026/2027

Approximately 60 boys

60 boys

2027/2028

Approximately 50 boys

110 boys

A projected loss of approximately 110 male students will undoubtedly drop GCHS's true operating enrollment well below the 4A threshold and deep into the established range for Class 3A schools, rendering the 4A classification obsolete and unfair before the alignment cycle even begins.

Placement if Reclassified into Class 3A

GCHS currently resides in Class 3A District 4: Bardstown, Casey County, Garrard County, Lexington Catholic, and Mercer County.

If allowed to Reclassify into 3A, it would appear the most logical placement would be to be placed into 3A District 5 or 4. Under the proposed alignment those are:

DISTRICT 4– Bardstown, Elizabethtown, LaRue County, Thomas Nelson

DISTRICT 5– Bourbon County, Estill County, Lexington Christian, Mercer County, Western Hills

We believe District 5 would make the most sense for Garrard County to be placed in, with the understanding that District 4, already being a 4 Team District (with the possibility of being a 3 Team District depending on if Thomas Nelson decides to remain out of District play as they did in the previous 2 year cycle) would need to likely add a Team to balance things out. It appears that Western Hills, Mercer County or Garrard County could all be options to go to District 4, however we feel District 5 is the most appropriate placement for Garrard County.

Proposed Enrollment Calculation Method (Grades 9-11)

To offer a more accurate and predictive measure of competitive enrollment for a two-year alignment cycle, GCHS respectfully proposes that the KHSAA calculate classification numbers using only students in Grades 9 through 11 at the time of the official count.

Rationale: The current senior class (Grade 12 at the time of the count) will graduate before the two-year alignment cycle begins. Including seniors artificially inflates (or deflates) the count, basing the classification on students who will not participate in the vast majority of the games covered by the alignment.

Benefit: Calculating enrollment based solely on Grades 9-11 provides a clearer, more representative picture of the student population that will actually compose the teams throughout the two-year period, offering a more equitable basis for competitive

balance.

Understanding: While this suggestion may not be feasible for this alignment period due to all the work that has been done, we believe that it certainly should be considered moving forward.

Conclusion

Garrard County High School's current enrollment is already on the periphery of 4A, and our substantial, well-documented projected loss of over 100 male students over the alignment cycle means that maintaining a 4A classification will guarantee severe competitive disadvantage. We implore the Board to utilize the provided forward-looking data and consider a more representative counting method (Grades 9-11) to accurately place GCHS in Class 3A, where our program can achieve sustainable competitive equity.

We are available to present this data and any additional information at a time convenient for the Board.

Thank you for your consideration of this critical request.

Sincerely,

Mark Scenters

Assistant Principal/Athletic Director

Garrard County High School