

Pull Down to Select School Kentucky Country Day High School

Name of Administrator (Principal/AD) Submitting this information Amy Elliott

Position of Administrator Designated Representative / Athletic Director

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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 Commissioner Tackett,
Please find the attached formal proposal concerning Classification Sustainability in Class A Football. This document represents a collaborative effort among several Class A programs to provide the KHSAA Board of Control with data-driven insights regarding the enrollment multiplier. Our goal is to ensure the classification system remains an accurate reflection of competitive reality for the Commonwealth’s smallest football programs while protecting long-term participation and student-athlete safety. Thank you for your time and for your continued leadership of high school athletics in Kentucky.

CLASSIFICATION SUSTAINABILITY IN CLASS A FOOTBALL
I. PRELIMINARY STATEMENT

KCD is submitting this proposal to collaborate with the Board of Control in refining the application of the enrollment multiplier. Our objective is to ensure that the classification system remains an accurate reflection of competitive reality, particularly within the Commonwealth’s smallest and most vulnerable football programs. We advocate for a data-driven evolution of the current policy to protect program participation and long-term viability.

II. ANALYSIS OF COMPETITIVE TRENDS (1959–2025)
To assist the Board in its ongoing evaluation of “athletic advantage,” we submit the following historical performance data

for Class A. This data suggests that within this specific classification, institutional type (Public vs. Non-Public) has not been the primary driver of championship-level success:

- **Public Program Consistency:** Since 1959, public institutions have secured 92% (62 titles) of Class A championships. While four non-public programs have achieved championship success in Class A since 1960, the data confirms this is the exception, not the rule. Even since 2005—a period of perceived shift—public institutions have secured more than 75% of all Class A titles. This confirms that the current classification structure already fosters a highly competitive environment for the Commonwealth’s smallest public and independent schools. Despite the success of a few high-profile programs, public schools continue to win Class A championships at a 3-to-1 ratio over the last two decades. This data suggests that institutional type is not the primary driver of competitive dominance at this level.

- **The “Independent” Variable:** The historical data suggests that competitive dominance in Class A is more closely correlated with long-term institutional stability and community-wide athletic infrastructure than with governance type. While several public independent districts have maintained the highest levels of performance through these resources, they remain appropriately classified by enrollment. Applying a multiplier solely to non-public institutions—regardless of their actual infrastructure or historical performance—creates a classification disparity that the data does not support.

III. THE “CLASS A FLOOR” & PARTICIPATION RISK

In the smallest classification, roster depth is the primary metric of program survival. A flat 1.35 multiplier creates a “statistical inflation” that does not reflect the actual number of available student-athletes.

- **Operational Attrition:** At the Class A level, a marginal shift in enrollment does not equate to a linear increase in athletic participation.

- **Risk of Forfeiture:** Forcing “rebuilding” or “dormant” programs into higher classifications based on an enrollment proxy—rather than on-field capacity—risks creating non-competitive schedules. This directly impacts the Association’s goal of maximizing student-athlete participation and safety.

IV. PROPOSED ADMINISTRATIVE REFINEMENTS

We respectfully propose two technical adjustments to the current classification model to better align with the KHSAA’s mission of equitable competition:

1. **Establishment of a “Class A Floor”:** We propose that the 32 smallest football-playing schools (by raw male enrollment) be exempt from the multiplier. This ensures that the state’s most “roster-thin” programs are not displaced by a mathematical formula that does not account for their actual participation numbers.

2. **Transition to a Success-Based Metric:** We recommend the Board evaluate a “Success Multiplier” model (similar to the IHSAA). This would move programs between classes based on demonstrated on-field performance (objective data) rather than enrollment potential (speculative data). This creates a self-correcting system where successful programs move up, and

struggling programs are permitted to recalibrate within their natural enrollment class.

V. REQUEST FOR COLLABORATIVE DATA REVIEW

In the interest of administrative transparency and procedural excellence, we request that the Board of Control authorize a formal Class A Impact Study before the next realignment cycle. This would allow the KFCA and member schools to provide the Board with specific participation-to-enrollment ratios, ensuring the 1.35 metric is achieving its intended goal without unintended consequences for program retention.

VI. CONCLUSION

We offer these recommendations not as a critique of the Board's intent, but as a resource for its implementation. Our goal is a classification system that is as precise as it is fair. We look forward to discussing how these refinements can strengthen the "Small School" experience in Kentucky.