

Pull Down to Select School Bath County High School

Name of Administrator (Principal/AD) Submitting this information Kelly J Wilson

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: On behalf of the Bath County School District, I am writing to respectfully request your consideration in appealing the proposed football realignment recently introduced by the KHSAA for Bath County High School. Our request is based on several key factors—including travel demands, enrollment trends, and program sustainability—I believe a reconsideration is both necessary and justified. Specifically, I would like to advocate for placing Bath County in the proposed 2A, District 6 with Lewis County High School, West Carter High School, Morgan County High School, Powell County High School, and Jackson County High School. This preferable alignment creates a more geographically connected Eastern Kentucky district that significantly reduces travel time. Most away contests would fall within approximately 35 minutes to 1 hour, compared to the current projected alignment which includes trips 2 hours one way. These extended travel demands place a considerable burden on our student-athletes both academically and physically. Additionally, the financial burden associated with extended travel cannot be overlooked. Travel to Lloyd Memorial (115 miles), Pendleton County (73 miles), and St. Henry (116 miles) exceeds our board-approved limit of 100 miles round trip. This creates added financial strain on boosters and families to cover excess transportation costs, further impacting our program and community. Moreover, from an enrollment standpoint, the proposed Eastern Kentucky district presents a more balanced and equitable

competitive environment. The average enrollment in that grouping is approximately 278, compared to 338 in the alternative alignment—a difference of over 60 students. Competing against consistently larger schools places Bath County at a structural disadvantage, particularly given our current and projected roster limitations.

Looking ahead, our male enrollment is projected to decline from (current numbers) 267 to 251 over the next four years. If the male student enrollment totals were incorporated from the 24/25 school year of 316, that further proves an even more significant overall decline of 65 male students. While the current decrease of 16 male students may appear minimal in larger districts, it is significant for a program of our size. Just two years ago, we were only able to field 21 players, and this past season we had a roster of 34, with only 12 upperclassmen available for Friday night competition after JV commitments. A continued decline could directly impact our ability to safely and sustainably field a team.

For these reasons, I believe it is important that we advocate for a reevaluation of the current proposed district alignment. Our requested Eastern Kentucky alignment not only promotes competitive equity but also supports student-athlete well-being, fiscal responsibility, and long-term program sustainability. Thank you for your time and consideration.