

# Russell County Board of Education

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**To:** Kentucky High School Athletic Association  
**From:** Russell County High School  
**Date:** April 27, 2026  
**Subject:** Request for Football District Realignment (District 6 to District 2)

Dear Members of the KHSAA,

Russell County High School respectfully requests consideration for reassignment from District 6 to District 2 in football. This request is based on student-athlete safety, excessive travel demands, and alignment with existing regional competition.

The most significant concern involves traveling to Harlan County High School. This trip requires 2 hours and 44 minutes one way (5 hours and 28 minutes round trip) and includes a time zone change to Eastern Time. With a 3:30 PM departure—the earliest feasible time with district shortage of bus drivers—students face the following schedule: 2 hours and 44 minutes of travel, 2 hours for dressing and warm-up, a 3-hour game, and 1 hour of post-game responsibilities before returning home. This results in a total time commitment of approximately 11 hours and 28 minutes, with students arriving back between 3:00–3:30 AM local time. That is without a stop for food or restrooms

This schedule creates clear safety concerns, including fatigue for both drivers and student athletes. Because of Lake Cumberland, Russell County, while small in geographical boundaries, does not have many direct roads that can get students home quickly from the school. Students will be walking into their homes after 4:00 AM.

From a broader perspective, District 6 requires approximately 6 hours and 48 minutes of total travel time, compared to 5 hours and 39 minutes in District 2. A reassignment would significantly reduce travel strain and eliminate the most extreme trip currently required.

Additionally, Russell County already competes against many District 2-area schools in other sports within the 4th Region, providing a natural geographic and competitive alignment. Adjusting football districts accordingly would improve consistency for students, families, and staff.

We have been in contact with all representatives from District 2, all parties have agreed that there would be no problems with becoming a 6-team district. Russell County, being a Central Time Zone team, would have no conflicts in scheduling game times. District 6, Russell County would be the only team in the Central Time Zone.

In conclusion, the current alignment places an undue burden on Russell County student-athletes. Reassignment to District 2 would provide a safer, more reasonable, and regionally consistent structure while maintaining competitive balance.

We respectfully request that the KHSAA review this proposal and give strong consideration to this adjustment in the best interest of student-athlete safety and success.

Sincerely,

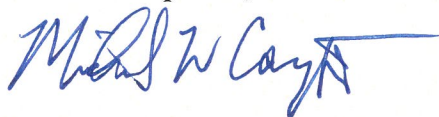
A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Michael A. Ford".

Michael A. Ford, Superintendent

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Shanna Tarter".

Shanna Tarter, Russell County High School Principal

Michael Carpenter, Athletic Director

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