



FORT KNOX HIGH SCHOOL

DODEA Americas Southeast District

266 Maine Street
Fort Knox, KY 40121
(502) 942-3070



Principal- Chris Ford

Assistant Principal- Judie Thomas

Dear Commissioner Tackett,

As reported last February by our former Athletic Director, a formal request was submitted for district and regional realignment based on geographic considerations.

At that time, Ms. Prather requested that Fort Knox High School be considered for placement in either District 11/Region 3 or District 21/Region 6, with District 11 being her preferred option. Since assuming the role of Athletic Director at Fort Knox High School, I have reviewed our travel considerations and believe that, based on geography and current transportation realities, Fort Knox is more closely aligned with the schools in District 21/Region 6.

Comparative travel distances support this conclusion. Fairdale High School, a member of District 21, is approximately 22 miles from Fort Knox High School, while Central Hardin High School, one of our current district opponents, is approximately 21 to 22 miles away. However, mileage alone does not accurately reflect the travel burden faced by our student-athletes and families.

For additional context, Fort Knox is expected to experience significant personnel reductions as part of the Army Transformation Initiative (ATI). In the coming months, the installation is projected to lose more than 1,200 Army-affiliated personnel. In October, the 19th Engineer Battalion will deactivate, resulting in the departure of nearly 400 active-duty Soldiers. Additionally, the Army Reserve Aviation Command is in the process of deactivating its headquarters at Fort Knox, creating another substantial reduction in installation population.

These personnel losses will inevitably affect Fort Knox High School enrollment, but they are also impacting services across the installation, including gate access. Historically, athletic teams and visitors traveling to Hardin County schools utilized Wilson Gate in Radcliff, which provided direct access to Dixie Highway and significantly reduced travel times. Due to manpower reductions, Wilson Gate now operates on reduced hours. As a result, our athletic teams frequently must enter and exit through Chaffee Gate, which is located near the Meade County line and only a short distance from Brandenburg.

This change has significantly altered travel patterns for Fort Knox athletic programs. Combined with the rapid growth of Hardin County and Elizabethtown, increased traffic congestion, and additional traffic signals along major routes, travel to schools such as Central Hardin often exceeds 35 to 40 minutes despite the relatively short mileage.

Placement in either District 21/Region 6 or District 11/Region 3 would better reflect the current geographic and transportation realities facing Fort Knox High School. These alignments would reduce travel inefficiencies, avoid unnecessary backtracking after exiting the installation, and provide a more logical regional fit for our student-athletes, coaches, and families.

We are also aware of and understand Meade County's interest in returning to the 5th Region as part of the upcoming realignment process. Our primary goal is not a specific district or region

designation, but rather placement that best aligns with the current geography, travel patterns, and operational realities facing Fort Knox High School. While District 21/Region 6 appears to present the most logical geographic fit, we are equally open to consideration for District 11/Region 3 if that option better accommodates the overall regional structure and the needs of neighboring schools. We recognize the challenges involved in balancing enrollment, geography, travel, and competitive equity, and we are willing to support whichever alignment is ultimately determined to be most beneficial for all member schools.

We respectfully ask that these factors be considered during the upcoming realignment process. Thank you for your time, consideration, and continued support of Kentucky's student-athletes.

Respectfully,
Wes Arnold
Fort Knox High School
Athletic Director