Tackett, Julian <jtackett@khsaa.org>

58th District Realignment

1 message

Horne-Williams, Tonya <tonya.williams@floyd.kyschools.us> Mon, Nov 9, 2026 at 4:04 PM
To: "Tackett, Julian" <jtackett@khsaa.org>
Cc: "Crisp, Seth" <seth.crisp@floyd.kyschools.us>

November 9, 2026

Julian Tackett, Commissioner
Kentucky High School Athletic Association
2280 Executive Drive
Lexington, KY 40505

RE: Request for Review of 15th Region 58th District Alignment

Dear Commissioner Tackett:

On behalf of the students, parents, families, staff, and community of Floyd County Schools, I respectfully request that the Kentucky High School Athletic Association consider a review of the current 15th Region district alignment.

Specifically, we ask that consideration be given to moving Magoffin County or Paintsville Independent and/or David School into the 58th District and shifting Lawrence County High School to a bordering district. Additionally, we strongly support keeping all three Floyd County high schools together within the same district.

Our concern is not with Lawrence County High School, its students, staff, or athletic programs. Rather, our concern is whether the current alignment creates unnecessary travel demands, financial burdens, and barriers to family participation for students and families in southern Floyd County.

Student Safety and Wellness

One of our primary concerns is the amount of travel required of student-athletes and their families. Students already balance demanding schedules involving academics, practices, competitions, and other responsibilities. When athletic events require extensive travel, the burden becomes even greater.

For families living in the southern portion of Floyd County, traveling to Lawrence County High School can require approximately 76 miles one way, or 152 miles round trip from the Wheelwright area. These distances can result in late arrivals home, less time for homework and rest, and additional fatigue for students who must return to school the following morning.

We believe district alignment should take geographic realities into consideration and avoid placing unnecessary travel demands on students whenever reasonable alternatives exist.

Financial Impact

The financial burden of repeated travel affects both individual families and school systems. Fuel costs, vehicle maintenance, and transportation expenses accumulate throughout an athletic season.

Using the November 9, 2026, Kentucky average fuel prices reported by AAA, a family vehicle averaging 25 miles per gallon would require approximately 6.08 gallons of gasoline for a 152-mile round trip. At approximately $3.75 per gallon, that represents nearly $23 for one trip alone.

For families with multiple children participating in athletics, these expenses can become a significant hardship. School districts also face increased transportation costs, fuel expenses, vehicle wear and tear, and additional demands on transportation personnel.

Parent and Family Impact

School athletics are about more than competition. They provide opportunities for parents, grandparents, siblings, and other family members to support students, build relationships, and remain connected to their school communities.

For families in Wheelwright and other southern Floyd County communities, attending an athletic event at Lawrence County can mean driving approximately 152 miles round trip. Parents working long hours and grandparents or other family members who provide transportation may find it difficult to make that commitment.

We do not believe district alignment should unintentionally create barriers that limit family involvement and support for student-athletes.

Our Request

We recognize that district alignment decisions involve multiple considerations and that every school and community deserves equitable opportunities. We are not seeking to disadvantage another school or athletic program. We are simply asking that geography, student well-being, family participation, and financial considerations receive meaningful attention during the review process.

We respectfully request an opportunity for the KHSAA to review the current alignment and consider a more geographically practical arrangement that maintains competitive opportunities while reducing unnecessary travel burdens.

Thank you for your time, consideration, and continued commitment to Kentucky's student-athletes. We appreciate your willingness to hear the concerns of our schools and communities.

Sincerely,

Tonya Horne-Williams
Superintendent
Floyd County Schools

SUPERINTENDENT
TONYA HORNE-WILLIAMS

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MEMBER DISTRICT 3
WILLIAM NEWSOME, JR

February 5, 2026

Commissioner Julian Tackett
Kentucky High School Athletic Association
2280 Executive Drive
Lexington, KY 40505

Dear Commissioner Tackett,

On behalf of the community, parents, students, and staff of Floyd County Schools, I am writing to formally request a review of our district alignment within the 15th Region, specifically regarding the 58th District.

Currently, the inclusion of Lawrence County High School in our district places an undue burden on our stakeholders. The geographic distance requires our students and families to travel significant distances for mandatory district competition. For many parents and students, this involves a round trip of approximately 170 miles. Additionally, travel to Lawrence County requires our three high schools to pass by several other high schools, further highlighting the inefficiency of the current alignment.

Enclosed with this letter is a mileage chart for 52 student-athletes from Floyd Central High School who reside in the southernmost portion of Floyd County. Please note that the figures provided reflect one-way travel distances only. Our primary concerns regarding this alignment are outlined below.

Student Safety and Wellness

Most importantly, the excessive travel distance and added miles place our students at increased risk. Long bus rides, often in poor weather and late at night, raise serious safety concerns for our student-athletes and staff. Extended travel times also contribute to fatigue, reduced focus in the classroom, and negative impacts on students' physical and emotional well-being. Protecting the safety of our students must remain our highest priority.

Financial Impact

Floyd County is home to many low-income families, and the current travel requirements create an added financial hardship for our community. Families face increased expenses related to fuel, vehicle maintenance, meals, and missed work hours in order to support their student-athletes. These costs place additional strain on households that are already managing limited resources.
Furthermore, the district incurs significant expenses related to bus maintenance, fuel, and driver mileage. Reducing excessive travel would allow these funds to be redirected toward academic and athletic programming that directly benefits students.

After consulting with Magoffin County Superintendent Chris Meadows, who is in agreement with this proposal, we recommend a realignment that would move Magoffin County High School to the 58th District and place Lawrence County High School in the 57th District. As demonstrated in the

The Floyd County Board of Education does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, religion, marital status, sex, or disability in employment, educational programs, or activities as set forth in Title IX & VI, and in Section 504.

attached comparison chart, Magoffin County is geographically closer to our schools and would significantly reduce the travel burden on our student-athletes.

We respectfully request that this change be considered and implemented in the best interest of our students who are currently traveling unnecessary miles, especially those who reside in the southern end of our county, the Wheelwright, Kentucky communities.

Another potential consideration would be the addition of David School to our district as well, which would create a five-team structure within the 58th District and further support competitive balance and scheduling efficiency.

We also respectfully request that Floyd Central High School, Betsy Layne High School, and Prestonsburg High School remain together in the same district. Maintaining these three Floyd County schools in a unified district supports community identity, traditional rivalries, and equitable competition.

We respectfully request that the KHSAA Board of Control review this proposal and consider implementing this realignment beginning with the 2026-27 school year in order to address ongoing safety concerns and unnecessary travel.

Thank you for your time and dedication to the well-being of Kentucky's student-athletes.

We appreciate the KHSAA's commitment to maintaining the integrity and competitive balance of high school sports across the Commonwealth. We look forward to your guidance on this request and are available to provide any additional documentation required for a formal determination.

Sincerely,

Tonya H. Williams

Tonya Horne-Williams
Superintendent
Floyd County Schools

Attachments:

1. Student-Athlete Mileage Chart: Detailed one-way travel data for 52 athletes residing in Southern Floyd County 2. Comparative Distance Analysis: Side-by-side comparison of mileage to Magoffin County versus Lawrence County

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Floyd County Board of Education Members
Chris Meadows, Superintendent, Magoffin County Schools
Katie Webb, Superintendent, Lawrence County Schools
Robbie Fletcher, Kentucky Commissioner of Education

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442 KY ROUTE 550, EASTERN KY, 41622
TEL: 606.886.2354 FAX: 606.886.4550

Name	Address	Miles to FCHS	Miles to LCHS	Miles to MCHS
Student athlete 1	92 Weeksbury	30	85	54
Student athlete 2	953 Weeksbury	30	8S	54
Student athlete 3	2431 Weeksbury	27	82	51
Student athlete 4	20 Weeksbury	26	81	50
Student athlete 5	77 Melvin	26	5+	pl
Student athlete 6	381 Printer	25	80	pl
Student athlete 7	109 Weeksbury	25	80	50
Student athlete 8	21 Melvin	25	8(I	50
Student athlete 9	29 Melvin	25	5-	50
Student athlete 10	81 Melvin	25	8(I	pl
Student athlete 11	144 Melvin	24	46	50
Student athlete 12	225 Melvin	24	79	49
Student athlete 13	207 Wheelwright	23	78	49
Student athlete 14	81 Melvin	23	78	49
Student athlete 15	81 Melvin	23	. P	49
Student athlete 16	324 Melvin	23	78	49
Student athlete 17	162 Wheelwright	23	78	49
Student athlete 18	360 Wheelwright	23	78	4 9 L
Student athlete 19	465 Wheelwright	23	78	49
Student athlete 20	465 Wheelwright	22	77	49
Student athlete 21	1734 Wheelwright	22	77	49
Student athlete 22	1226 Wheelwright	22	77	48
Student athlete 23	376 Wheelwright	22	75	48
Student athlete 24	376 Wheelwright	20	75	48
Student athlete 25	308 Wheelwright	20	7S	48
Student athlete 26	639 Stanville	20	75	47
Student athlete 27	639 Stanville	20	75	46
Student athlete 28	14338 Beaver	20	41	46
Student athlete 29	220 Minnie	19	7 I	46
Student athlete 30	188 Beaver	17	72	451
Student athlete 31	129 Leburn	17	72	43
Student athlete 32	92 Burton Hill	17	71	42
Student athlete 33	2259 Bevinsville	16	71	41
Student athlete 34	2249 Bevinsville	16	71	41
Student athlete 35	68 Bevinsville	16	71	41
Student athlete 36	106 Bevinsville	16	71	41
Student athlete 37	1263 Bevinsville	16	71	41
Student athlete 38	324 Melvin	16	71	41
Student athlete 39	207 Wheelwright	16	69	40
Student athlete 40	13818 Hi Hat	14	67	40
Student athlete 41	19152 Hi Hat	12	67	40
Student athlete 42	16477 Hi Hat	12	67	40
Student athlete 43	2902 Printer	12	67	40
Student athlete 44	1369 Wheelwright	12	67	401
Student athlete 45	13764 Hi Hat	12	67	37
Student athlete 46	2222 Printer	10	65	37
Student athlete 47	6981 Minnie	10	65	33
Student athlete 48	381 Printer	10	65	33
Student athlete 49	19 Minnie	8	63	31
Student athlete 50	15 Minnie	8	63	31
Student athlete 51	3867 Printer	8	63	31
Student athlete 52	92 Weeksbury	8	63	31
Average Distance:		1s.s2692J	**73.63462**	**44.3461S**

Tackett, Julian <jtackett@khsaa.org>

Re: KHSAA COMMISSIONER JULIAN TACKETT

1 message

Tackett, Julian <jtackett@khsaa.org> Mon, Feb 9, 2026 at 1:32 PM
To: "Williams, Tonya (Floyd Co. Supt)" <tonya.williams@floyd.kyschools.us>
Cc: "Fletcher, Robbie - Commissioner of Education" <robbie.fletcher@education.ky.gov>, "Webb, Katie" <katie.webb@paintsville.kyschools.us>, "Hall, Jeremy" <jeremy.hall@floyd.kyschools.us>, "Crisp, Seth (Dir. of Transportation)" <seth.crisp@floyd.kyschools.us>, "Meadows, Chris - Superintendent" <chris.meadows@magoffin.kyschools.us>, "Gearheart, Linda (FCS Board Member)" <linda.gearheart@floyd.kyschools.us>, "Newsome, Junior (FCS Board Member)" <junior.newsome2@floyd.kyschools.us>, "Slone, Steve (FCS Board Member)" <steve.slone@floyd.kyschools.us>, "Smallwood, Keith (FCS Board Member)" <keith.smallwood@floyd.kyschools.us>, aaron.lemelin@piaristschool.org, Ancie Casey <ancie.casey@pike.kyschools.us>, boo.hager@pike.kyschools.us, brandon.blackburn@pikeville.kyschools.us, "Kidd, Brandon (Assistant Principal PHS)" <brandon.kidd@floyd.kyschools.us>, brian.conley@magoffin.kyschools.us, "Thompson, Chandler" <chandler.thompson@lawrence.kyschools.us>, "White, Chuck" <chuck.white@martin.kyschools.us>, David Trimble <david.trimble@pikeville.kyschools.us>, "Ratliff, Derwood" <derwood.ratliff@pike.kyschools.us>, eric.bartley@pike.kyschools.us, "Lyons, Eugene" <eugene.lyons@pike.kyschools.us>, freddie.bowling@pike.kyschools.us, "Burchell, Gabe" <gabe.burchell@magoffin.kyschools.us>, "Napier, Greg" <greg.napier@pike.kyschools.us>, Jason Kinner <jason.kinner@paintsville.kyschools.us>, "Shepherd, Jason" <jason.shepherd@johnson.kyschools.us>, "Roberts, Jody (Principal BLHS)" <jody.roberts@floyd.kyschools.us>, "Arms, Justin" <justin.arms@johnson.kyschools.us>, katie.webb@lawrence.kyschools.us, kenton.woodward@pike.kyschools.us, klee@cdlex.org, kristy.frazier@paintsville.kyschools.us, "Burchett, Lukas" <lukas.burchett@pikeville.kyschools.us>, "Pacheco, Marco" <marco.pacheco@floyd.kyschools.us>, michelle.harless@martin.kyschools.us, "Hamilton, Mike" <mike.hamilton@pike.kyschools.us>, "Smith, Randy" <randy.smith@pike.kyschools.us>, Reed Adkins <reed.adkins@pike.kyschools.us>, Ryan Chapman <ryan.chapman@pike.kyschools.us>, "Stephens, Susan" <susan.stephens2@floyd.kyschools.us>, "George, Ted (Director of Human Resources-CIO)" <ted.george@floyd.kyschools.us>, The Piarist School <thepiaristschool@gmail.com>, Thom Cochran <thom.cochran@johnson.kyschools.us>, "Cline, Timothy M." <timothy.cline@pike.kyschools.us>, "Isaac, Tony (SFHS)" <tony.isaac@floyd.kyschools.us>, wrendi.mcdavid@lawrence.kyschools.us

Superintendent Williams,

Let this reflect that your letter has been received.

This information will be shared as an information-only item at our next KHSAA Board of Control meeting. No action will be taken. The processes for basketball alignment are considered during the Board meetings held from as early as July to as late as December each year, with any changes implemented the following school year after approval in January. This timeline and practice have been consistently applied for multiple decades, so you are advised to plan for no action until the 2026-2027 school year, with any approved action to take effect no earlier than the following year.

For this type of change, the recent practice has been very consistent with the following steps -

- Include all impacted schools and districts in all discussions from the outset. This type of requested school moves impact every school, and if travel is a legitimate issue, the Board should consider not only aggregate mileage but also specific routes, ongoing construction, the number of required trips, and other factors.
- Determine the opinions of all schools involved regarding the motivating factors, stated and unstated, for the request.
- Review of the past scheduling practices of the schools involved to determine if the request is consistent with what is happening in all sports, and that the same requested travel considerations are part of the current practice.
- Ensure, through both internal and external research and discussion, that issues revolve solely around geographical logistics and that competitive factors are not in any way a factor.
- Determine, first and foremost, if there is a consensus solution among all schools in the region before any Board of Control action is taken.
- More particularly, it is critical to analyze and evaluate consensus among any schools that are requested to be moved, especially when such is done by a school or schools that would not be moving.

Being extremely familiar with this area and past decisions on alignment and tournament format, I should reiterate that this discussion involves every school in the region, not just two schools being discussed for change by a third. If such a discussion is held, it would almost certainly bring other factors to the table, including the number of teams in each district

and the longstanding desire of the member schools to minimize the number of three-team districts and exhaust all options to balance teams across all districts.

The February Board meeting is a public meeting, and your letter and documents will be entered into the record as written public comment. When decisions are made about when (or if) to place this item for further consideration by the Board of Control, I will be sure to inform you well in advance, as will all other schools in the 15th region, so that all have a chance to participate in the discussions. To ensure transparency, this response, along with the original letter, is copied to all impacted member schools currently aligned in Region 15, through the Superintendents, Principals, Designated Representatives, and Athletic Directors, as currently listed in the KHSAA360 (ArbiterSports) data system.

Best of luck for the remainder of this school year and in the future for all of the athletes, coaches and administrators in your school district

On Fri, Feb 6, 2026 at 1:59 PM Williams, Tonya (Floyd Co. Supt) <tonya.williams@floyd.kyschools.us> wrote:

> Good Afternoon,
>
> I hope you are enjoying this beautiful snowy winter day. 😊
>
> After much discussion and consultation with our Board members, I am writing, in my role as Superintendent of Floyd County Schools, to formally request consideration for a realignment of the 58th District. Please see the attached letter outlining the reasons and rationale for this request.
>
> Each of you will also receive a copy of this letter by mail.
>
> This request is made with the best interests of our students at the forefront of our decision-making, and we appreciate your time and thoughtful consideration.
>
> Thank you for your continued support of Floyd County Schools.
>
> Sincerely,
> Tonya Williams
> Superintendent
> Floyd County Schools

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Please let me know if I can be of further assistance.

"I Am Only One, But I Am One. I Cannot Do Everything, But I Can Do Something. And Because I Cannot Do Everything, I Will Not Refuse To Do The Something That I Can Do. What I Can Do, I Should Do. And What I Should Do, By The Grace Of God, I Will Do." - Edward Everett Hale

Julian Tackett, Commissioner
Primary Sports Event Contact- Boys and Girls State Basketball, Football
Playing Rules Interpreter – Football
jtackett@khsaa.org
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