

OHSAA Member School District Transfer Request Factors
“Objective, Published Criteria” Per Constitution Article 5-7-3
(PENDING REFERENDUM APPROVAL)

The following factors will be considered in determining whether to approve a member school transfer request into a different district assignment.

1) If approved, will this be the first time that the school will transfer OHSAA districts?

A school’s transfer between OHSAA districts should be considered a commitment to remain in that OHSAA district for the foreseeable future. A member school that repeatedly transfers between OHSAA districts undermines the stability of the district system and the transfer process. A member school that has never transferred supports a member school’s to request a transfer.

If a member school has never transferred OHSAA districts, this factor weighs in favor of approving a transfer.

2) If part of a public school district, does the school have territory within the receiving district?

When the OHSAA district system was created in 1907, it was based on county boundaries. However, not all school districts follow county boundaries. Furthermore, school district boundaries are subject to revision under Ohio law. Therefore, a finite number of school districts contain territory in two or more OHSAA districts. Generally, a member school can be located anywhere in the school district’s territory. Therefore, having territory in requesting district is a strong basis for a member school to request a transfer.

If a member school’s school district is located in the receiving OHSAA district, this factor weighs in favor of approving a transfer.

3) If part of a public school district, does the school have territory adjacent to the receiving district?

Although a member school may not be located in the receiving OHSAA district, a school that is adjacent to the OHSAA district territory supports a transfer request as it preserves the OHSAA district system while allowing a limited number of “border” schools to transfer. While a non-adjacent school may present other reasons for transfer, such transfers permit a gradual expansion of the district.

If a member school’s school district is located adjacent to the receiving district’s original boundaries, this factor weighs in favor of approving a transfer.

4) What is the proximity of the school to the district border? Is it within 5 miles of the district border?

Reviewing this criteria ensures that the member school is geographically close to the receiving district. It also provides an objective basis to evaluate private schools and community schools that are not part of school districts.

If a member school is located five miles or less from the border of the receiving OHSAA district, this factor weighs in favor of approving a transfer.

5) Does the school’s current athletic conference include team(s) that are in the receiving district?

A member school that competes in an athletic conference that includes team(s) in the receiving district suggests an affinity with the receiving OHSAA district.

If a member school participates in an athletic conference that includes team(s) in the receiving district, this factor favors approving a transfer.

6) Did the school articulate bona fide safety, athletic, academic, or community bases for transfer?

A member school request is supported if it can articulate compelling reasons for the transfer that align with the OHSAA's purpose to promote "lifetime values, good citizenship, academic success, ethics and fair play in a safe and sporting environment." OHSAA's district system was established over 100 years ago. Since that time, means of transportation, population centers, employment centers, athletic contests, and participation have changed significantly. Reasons must be real and objective—and supported by documented evidence. A bona fide reason will resolve a problem and further enhance OHSAA's commitment to making competitions fair and equitable.

If a school articulates a bona fide academic, safety, athletic, or community reason(s) for transfer, this factor weighs in favor of approving a transfer.

7) Is there an absence of evidence that the school's request is motivated by an improper motive?

OHSAA is committed to "ethics and fair play." Requests should not be approved if there is evidence that a member school seeks an advantage in a particular sport(s).

If no evidence exists that the school's request is motivated by an improper motive, this factor favors approving a transfer.

8) Has the releasing district failed to articulate a bona fide reason to oppose the transfer? If a bona fide reason was provided, did the school respond to those reasons?

A releasing district should articulate compelling reason(s) to oppose the transfer consistent with OHSAA's commitment to fair and equitable competitions. Reasons must be real and objective—and supported by documented evidence.

If the releasing district failed to identify a bona fide reason—or the member school responded to the bona fide reason, this factor favors transfer.

9) Has the receiving district failed to articulate a bona fide reason to oppose the transfer? If a bona fide reason was provided, did the school respond to those reasons?

An receiving district should articulate compelling reason(s) to oppose the transfer consistent with OHSAA's commitment to fair and equitable competitions. Reasons must be real and objective—and supported by documented evidence.

If the receiving district failed to identify a bona fide reason—or the member school responded to the bona fide reason, this factor favors transfer.

10) In the last five years, have three (3) or fewer school left the releasing district pursuant to OHSAA transfer requests?

This protects against a significant movement of schools from one district to another.

If the releasing district is not "shrinking," this factor weighs in favor of approving a transfer.