



OHIO HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION

Doug Ute, Executive Director

Student Eligibility Guidance for High School Principals and Athletic Administrators

Transfer Bylaw Guidance

Bylaw 4-7-2, Exception 3 – School Closes; Annexation or Consolidation

This document will focus on Bylaw 4-7-2, Exception 3. For guidance on the full text of Bylaw 4-7-2, please visit (<https://ohsaaweb.blob.core.windows.net/files/Eligibility/4-7-2Guidance.pdf>). Exception 3 reads as follows:

If it is determined that one or more of the exceptions that follow represents an event which creates the need to transfer, i. e., creates a cause and effect relationship, then one or more of the following exceptions may apply:

EXCEPTION 3: *If the high school, which is either a chartered high school in a single high school public school district or a chartered non-public high school, in which the student is enrolled closes or discontinues its entire high school educational program after grade nine, the student may enroll in any school and be immediately eligible at that high school insofar as transfer is concerned. Likewise, if the bona fide residence of the student's parents is annexed to a different school district or consolidated within a school district, the student may be ruled eligible upon transfer to a school in the annexed or consolidated district subject to modification by formal action by the Boards of Education concerned. A copy of such action by Boards of Education must be on file in the Association office before the Executive Director's office can rule the student eligible. This exception shall be available to any student whose high school has closed as long as that high school was an OHSAA member school prior to the 2012-13 school year.*

Note 1: For school closings in a multiple high school district, see Bylaw 4-7-4 regarding intra-district transfers.

Note 2: This exception has no application to the closing of any "non-traditional school" such as a community school or a non-chartered non-public high school or an out of state high school.

Until a student is declared eligible by the Executive Director's Office in accordance with this exception, they shall be ineligible for all OHSAA tournaments in those sports in which the student participated during the 12 months immediately preceding this transfer. In addition, the student shall be ineligible for all contests at all levels AFTER the first 50% of the maximum allowable varsity regular season contests have been competed in those sports in which the student participated during the 12 months immediately preceding this transfer.

Notes:

- This exception is applicable only in situations in which the **high school in a single high school public school district or non-public high school** closes.
 - o If a high school within a **multi-high school public school districts closes**, students will be **reassigned to other schools within the district**, and their eligibility will be preserved as prescribed in Bylaw 4-7-6.
- Please note, as expressed in NOTE 2, that this exception does not apply to community schools or non-chartered, non-public (08) schools.
- When a (typically) non-member, typically non-public high school does not sponsor (*discontinues*) grades after grade nine, students may transfer to a member school and be eligible insofar as transfer is concerned under the provisions of this exception.

To request a ruling under exception 3, please complete the exception 3 form found here:

(<https://ohsaaweb.blob.core.windows.net/files/Eligibility/forms/SchoolClosingForm.pdf>). Within the form, you will be required to provide proof of board action that resulted in the closure, annexation or consolidation of the school in question. A ruling cannot occur until the board action is final.



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Please feel free to contact Kristin Ronai (kronai@ohsaa.org) or Ronald Sayers (rsayers@ohsaa.org) if you have any questions!