



Student Eligibility Guidance for High School Principals and Athletic Administrators

Bylaw 4-7-8, Superintendents Memorandum of Understanding – Summary

This document will focus on the primary language within Bylaw 4-7-8, Transfer. The bylaw reads as follows:

4-7-8 *Notwithstanding Bylaw 4-7-2, a student who transfers between two OHSAA member schools governed by two different school districts/systems of education may have his/her eligibility restored if the Superintendents/Heads of School (or their designee) of those systems complete a memorandum of understanding stating the transfer is unrelated to interscholastic athletics and is made to protect the student's physical or mental well-being or address other extenuating circumstances they deem appropriate. The student remains subject to Bylaw 4-7-2 until the Executive Director's Office declares eligibility.*

Note 1: This Bylaw shall have no applicability in waiving the provisions set forth within Bylaw 4-7-3, Mid-Season Transfer. The student may be declared eligible up to two times under the provisions set forth in this bylaw.

1. The language above mirrors ORC 3313.64(F)(12), Superintendent Agreement, along with a previous iteration within the OHSAA Transfer bylaw from almost two decades ago.
2. A public school Superintendent is clearly defined in Ohio Revised Code. Conversely, for purposes of this Bylaw, the *Head of School* for a non-public school shall be defined as the highest-ranking on-site leader, typically the School President.
 - a. If a school does not have a president, the principal may serve in this role. The key criterion is that this individual is the top **on-site** authority who is familiar with the student's situation and able to make an informed decision regarding his/her transfer.
3. As a result of the passage of this Bylaw in May 2026, Exceptions 4 (*Self-Support*), 9 (*Discontinues Entire Interscholastic Athletics Program*), and 10 (*Death of Immediate Family Member*) were stricken from Bylaw 4-7-2.
4. In order to request a ruling under this bylaw, both Superintendents need to sign the Memorandum of Understanding found at this link:
<https://ohsaaweb.blob.core.windows.net/files/Eligibility/forms/4-7-8Form.pdf>

Please feel free to contact Ronald Sayers (rsayers@ohsaa.org), Lizzy Wilson (lwilson@ohsaa.org), or Andy Bixler (abixler@ohsaa.org) if you have any questions!